



Big plans: Mohamad Hayal showing the stretch of Sungai Muar to be straightened and upgraded to curb flooding in the district.

RM210mil flood mitigation project proposed along Sg Muar

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MUAR: A major flood mitigation project costing RM210mil has been proposed to curb flooding along the stretch of Sungai Muar between Segamat and here.

The project is part of a major flood mitigation programme being planned that covers some 6,138 sq km of catchment areas along the river up to Negri Sembilan and even Pahang.

Muar Drainage and Irrigation Department officer Mohamad Hayal Atan said the stretches, especially in Segamat, Pagoh and Gemas, had been prone to flooding since the 1920s.

He said the first phase of the mitigation project involved the Segamat district, while the second phase covered the Ledang and Muar districts.

The second phase project also involved strengthening the riverbank at Tanjung Olak and Belemang and upgrading works at Sungai Pagoh.

"We will also improve the irrigation system in Pagoh town and build a canal system from Tanjung Olak to Bukit Kepong," he said here recently.

Mohamad Hayal, however, said the canal project had yet to be approved but a proposal on the matter had been submitted to the rele-

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— MOHAMAD HAYAL ATAN

vant ministries.

He said the Government had approved a RM30mil allocation to upgrade Sungai Pagoh, improve the irrigation system in Pagoh town and for land acquisition in Tanjung Olak.

Sungai Pagoh, which stretches for about 18km, would be deepened and widened at a cost of RM25mil and another RM5mil for land acquisition.

The stretch of the river near Tanjung Olak will also be straightened and shortened from 27km to only seven, to speed water flow.

He said both Tanjung Olak and Belemang would have waterways to allow flood water from the upper reaches of Sungai Muar to flow downstream.

"Although the mitigation project in Muar will not totally prevent flooding in the district, it will at least speed up water flow into the sea," added Mohamad Hayal.