

RM340m to prevent floods in Kerian

IPOH: Every year during the rainy season, the Kerian district near here will be one of the worst flood-hit areas.

It is normal to see several villages and low-lying areas inundated and residents evacuated from their homes.

All that is set to change, thanks to a flood mitigation project in the district which has yielded positive results. The district was spared from

floods during the monsoon season last November.

State irrigation and drainage director Datuk Abdul Razak Dahalan said the full impact would only be felt once the flood mitigation project was completed in 2015.

He said altogether, there were 23 packages under the RM340 million project, with nine in various phases of development. Most of them involved the construction of bunds.

Another 11 packages were being evaluated after tenders were closed recently.

"We are beginning to see some results. The project has reduced flood occurrence in the district.

"However, the significant impact will only be seen once work is completed in two years," he said when asked on the progress of the project.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had during a visit to the dis-

trict a year ago announced a RM340 million allocation for flood mitigation in the Kerian district.

A total of RM90 million from the total allocation was for land acquisition while the remaining was for construction costs.

Apart from residents in the Kerian district, Abdul Razak said those from nearby Ijok and Selama would also enjoy the spillover from the massive project.