

77 flood-prone areas in Selangor

Poorly kept drains and retention ponds cause of flash floods

THERE were 77 flood-prone areas in Selangor as of Aug 16 with 95 flood incidents recorded.

Of the number, 20 were new flood areas, said state Infrastructure Committee chairman Zaidy Abdul Talib.

He, however, added that none of the state's primary rivers had exceeded the danger level.

"These are all flash floods caused by problems with the internal drainage and retention ponds," he said in reply to Datuk Mohd Shamsudin Lias (BN-Sungai Burong) who asked on the flood situation in the state.

Problems with the internal drainage, Zaidy said, was caused by poor maintenance, adding that the authorities concerned had been reprimanded.

"The drainage plan is also old and cannot cope with weather changes. We get 60mm rainfall for one to three hours at a stretch, which exceeds our drainage capacity," said Zaidy.

He also said a proposal had

been submitted for the Malaysian Road Records Information System (Marris), that the budget be used to upgrade and improve current drainage plans to better suit the new rainfall level.

On retention ponds, he said 304 were maintained by different authorities and private developers.

"We decided in a meeting in June this year that all ponds would be maintained by the state Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID).

"DID will dredge and deepen 84 ponds at a cost of RM6.7mil," said Zaidy.

The 20 new flood-hit areas had ongoing developments with retention ponds to be maintained by the developers before being handed over to the state.

State Transport Committee chairman Datuk Teng Chang Khim said the state government would complete the interim report of its Selangor Master Transportation Plan by November.

Replying to Shahrum Mohd Sharif (BN-Dengkil), he said the state government was aware of public transport issues in Selangor which included high private vehicle ownership, low area of coverage for bus and rail services and the low level of support services for both modes.

The master plan, as previously announced, was intended to achieve a public-private transport ratio of 60:40.

In the same vein, yesterday also saw the launch of the "Bas Selangorku" logo by Selangor Menteri Besar Azmin Ali.

Revealing the ridership for July, Teng said there were 26,709 for Shah Alam; 19,669 in Subang Jaya and 6,821 in Klang.

"Taking into account less travels during the Hari Raya holiday week, these numbers are very encouraging," he added.

Phase 2 of the Bus Selangorku would see Ampang Jaya and Kajang municipalities getting their own routes as well.

Less demand for low-cost houses

THE demand for low-cost houses in Selangor has reduced compared to low-medium cost homes, the house was told.

Selangor state Housing Committee chairman Datuk Iskandar Abdul Samad said it was getting difficult to find buyers for low-cost homes in many parts of Selangor.

He said the situation was especially bad in Klang, Kajang, Semenyih and Rawang.

He added that despite being built in strategic areas, demand for the low-cost homes had reduced in many areas.

"Demand for low-medium cost houses ranging between RM100,000 and RM150,000 has increased in these areas," he said in reply to Yakob Sapari (PKR-Kota Anggerik), who asked on the efforts taken to ensure developers built enough low-cost homes for the lower-income group.

Iskandar also said the state's policy of making it compulsory for developers to build low-cost houses for every housing development projects had resulted in the situation.

He added that the policy to build low-cost homes did not consider if there was a demand.

"The developers will have to build low-cost houses as part of the state's requirement.

"However, the developers are finding it a burden to build low-cost houses, especially when they are

unable to sell them," he said.

On another matter, state Local Government, New Village Development and Legalising of Factories committee chairman Ean Yong Hian Wah said representatives from the state had made eight overseas study tours to learn on management and disposal of bulk waste.

Denmark, Taiwan, China, Thailand and Singapore, he said, were among the countries visited by a special task force on the management and disposal of bulk waste.

"We have been exposed to various waste management methods in those countries. It gives an idea of how it worked over there before we decide to implement here," he said in reply to Lee Kee Hong (DAP-Kuala Kubu Baru), who asked how many overseas trips the state representatives had made in regards to the bulk waste management.

To her question on whether the state planned to implement a system that would not leave a negative impact on the environment, Ean Yong said the state was being careful about the method to ensure that it was viable.

He said the state was looking at ways to optimise the management of bulk waste in terms of the economic perspective.

"We have to look into the technical aspects and challenges of implementation of the methods as well," he said.