

RM6.7mil to upgrade retention ponds

THE Selangor government has decided to invest RM6.7mil to help mitigate flooding in the state.

The sum will be used to maintain 84 ponds by the end of the year that can help reduce flood incidents.

State Infrastructure Committee chairman Zaidy Talib said there are some 314 retention ponds that would be upgraded in stages and would continue to be maintained once every four years.

"We also decided in a meeting on June 24, that the ponds that are being maintained by various agencies will be handed over to the Drainage and Irrigation Department," he said.

According to Zaidy, there are 77 flood-prone areas in the state.

"Twenty of those areas are new areas. During a special workshop held recently to discuss flood issues, we realised that the drains cannot cope with the increased rainfall these days," he added.

The state government also has plans to use the federal government's Malaysian Road Record Information System (Marris) funds to help upgrade the drains as well.

Zaidy said the Marris funds could only be used for roadworks and drains that were broken or have collapsed.

"We have already written in to the federal government asking to extend the use of the funds to refurbishment works as well. We hope we will get a favourable

answer by next year," added Zaidy.

Apart from this, Zaidy said the state has also decided on several short-term measures to help mitigate flood woes.

Local councils and the state government will be monitoring all new development sites to ensure they do not contribute to flooding.

Citing Puchong as an example, he said some developers had failed to follow the Erosion Sediment Control Plan, resulting in clogged drains.

Zaidy said since there were already laws in place that need to be enforced, the new flood task-force will conduct regular spot checks under Ops Lumpur.

He said all relevant government

agencies will be present to ensure the problems can be resolved quickly.

"We will also call the assemblymen so they can discuss with the agencies without going through the hassle of trying to get hold of them (agencies)," he added.

Zaidy also said Malaysia is expected to experience heavy rainfall in November so all local councils have been asked to create a checklist in preparation for bad weather.

"We will ask the local councils to review their drainage cleaning works. Sometimes they clean the drains without removing the sediment so we want them to reevaluate the cleaning process," he added.