

# Flood-mitigation projects may cost at least RM2b

**GLOBAL WARMING:**  
20pc of areas in river basins will be submerged by 2100

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**T**HE government may be required to spend at least RM2 billion on flood-mitigation projects nationwide to ensure populated areas are protected from rising water levels due to global warming.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said based on a projection made by the relevant agencies, about 20 per cent of areas in river basins would be under water by 2100 if nothing was done.

"This is not about (providing) business opportunities, but rather, a long-term solution to protect people in flood-prone areas," he said at the groundbreaking ceremony for a



**Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi** looking at the Teluk Intan flood mitigation-project plan in Teluk Intan yesterday. With him are Natural Resources and Environment Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar** (second from right) and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and Teluk Intan member of parliament **Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong** (right). Bernama pic

flood-mitigation project in Kampung Terengganu here yesterday.

Present were Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar and Minister in the Prime Minister's

Department and Teluk Intan member of parliament Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong.

Zahid said the government had to make the necessary preparations as the sea level was expected to rise due

to global warming.

He said among the areas that were in danger were Bagan Datoh, Teluk Intan and Pasir Salak, located in the Sungai Perak river basin.

"That is why, as the elected representatives for these constituencies, we have been pushing for the flood-mitigation projects to be completed as soon as possible," he said.

He said the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax had enabled the government to face a multitude of economic challenges which, among others, were caused by the drop in oil prices.

On the flood-mitigation project costing RM75 million, Zahid said it would benefit 15,000 residents in the town area.

Earlier in his speech, Junaidi said the government had allocated RM9 million for a similar project in Bagan Datoh, with another RM250 million allocated to tackle flooding in other towns along Sungai Perak.

He said the project would protect the areas surrounding Teluk Intan from being submerged due to soil erosion and heavy sedimentation.