

Mitigation works at 4 Camerons slopes

RM7M ALLOCATION:

Likelihood of landslides, says minister

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FOUR critical slopes in Cameron Highlands have been identified for immediate mitigation works at a cost of RM7 million.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi called for mitigation works to be carried out as soon as possible after chairing the Cameron Highlands Action Council Committee Meeting yesterday.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, who attended the meeting, said slope engineering works include building retaining walls, anchors, soil nails and rock nettings at the Petronas parking lot, Jalan Kuala Terla, Evergreen Villa and Kampung Orang Asli Sungai

Tiang, adding that 29 other slopes were also identified for repair.

"Based on a study, these areas have the possibility for landslides. The deputy prime minister had agreed that these four critical slopes must be rectified to ensure people's safety," he said.

He said the Minerals and Geoscience Department had also carried out a study to identify high-risk landslide areas under the Hazard and Slope Risk Map Area Project covering 35 per cent of Cameron Highlands that would be completed this year.

The flood mitigation projects by the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) at Bertam Valley at Sungai Bertam, Wan Junaidi said, was expected to be completed next month, while the Sungai Ringlek project would commence in August.

The Bertam Valley project, costing RM 30.8 million, includes the building of five bridges, a 1.9km river upgrading work and a construction of four drop structures to control the flow of water, he added.

"This would create 200,000 sqm of flood-free area, benefiting 3,000 people," he said, adding that the Sungai Ringlek project involved 190,000 sqm of flood-free area that would benefit 2,300 people.

"DID is identifying locations for flood retention ponds at the upstream of Sungai Ringlek," he said.

However, Wan Junaidi said the decision on the relocation of SJK (C) Bertam Valley must be made by the Education Ministry and Public Works Department.

As part of the Cameron Highlands green programme, Wan Junaidi said 25,207 trees were planted at a 24ha forest reserve area last year, while another 150ha had been identified for the same programme this year at a cost of RM3.44 million.

"Replanting will be carried out in phases under the 11th Malaysia Plan at a cost of RM100 million. It is part of efforts to rehabilitate, reforest and replant forest areas, which include indigenous lands."



**Datuk Seri Dr
Wan Junaidi
Tuanku
Jaafar**