



**Alam Flora workers cleaning the road in front of Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. Pic by Ghazali Kori**

# 'Build better drainage systems'

**REVIEW:** They must be able to cope with current weather, says minister

**HASHINI KAVISHTRI KANNAN**  
PUTRAJAYA  
hashini@nst.com.my

**L**OCAL councils have been urged to build drainage systems that are efficient and can withstand bad weather.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the design and engineering of the systems must be able to stand the current unpredictable weather conditions.

"Therefore, rigorous consultation and discussion must be done with the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) to take into consideration the design and engineering of drainage systems.

"Our infrastructure must be able to function in current weather conditions," he said.

Wan Junaidi said this following flash floods that hit several roads in Kuala Lumpur, causing vehicles to be trapped after a heavy downpour on Thursday evening.

He said the flash floods were due to inefficient drainage systems and insufficient maintenance, adding that there was a pressing need

to review the drainage systems in all the cities in the country, particularly Kuala Lumpur.

"After looking at the flash floods on Thursday, we must review our drainage systems and improve them before we are hit by another disaster.

"We have identified several contributing factors which caused the flash floods, namely the unexpected rainfall, low-capacity culverts, clogged drains and a shallow retention pond in Kajang," he said.

Wan Junaidi said only 130mm to 140mm of rainfall was recorded during Thursday's flash flood, which is below the dangerous level.

He said the construction of the Mass Rapid Transit in Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim could also have been a contributing factor.

The affected areas were Jalan Bangsar, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim, Universiti Malaya and some parts in Kajang, Wan Junaidi said.

As a short-term plan, the current drainage system must be deepened and frequent maintenance must be carried out. As a long-term measure, the entire drainage system around Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim, Universiti Malaya and Bangsar must be upgraded.

Wan Junaidi said according to DID, seven incidents of flash floods were recorded in 2014 and eight incidents last year.

He said DID had been instructed to submit a report to him on the present drainage systems and their condition.

"All state DID directors have been instructed to submit reports on the state of their drainage system.

"And we will decide whether to change it with funds we have, and if we don't have the means for it, we will bring the matter to the government to help us solve the issue," he said.

Further, Wan Junaidi said immediate maintenance work must be carried out at all drains in the country.

The ministry will meet with town planners for a brainstorming session to improve the country's drainage system, he said.

