

# Water level of rivers to improve by end of year, says expert

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Water levels in rivers nationwide may improve only by the end of the year, depending on rainfall.

Climate and geoscience expert Professor Datuk Azizan Abu Samah said recharging the rivers depended on two things — first was the surface runoff, while the other was groundwater discharge.

He said surface runoff, also known as overland flow, occurs when there is a flow of excess storm water or other sources over the land surface that enters the river, while ground water discharge is from underground water that flows into rivers.

Rivers in Malaysia, he said, depended on both these processes, and these processes depended on the amount of rainfall.

“The rivers need to be recharged more than usual during this time of year due to the dry spell we experienced earlier this year. Rain water is needed to recharge the underground water.

“Underground water sinks during the dry season, thus the ground needs more rain to reach the river water levels. It acts like a spring,” he told

the *New Straits Times*.

Underground water, he said, was dependent on rainfall, and the next

maximum rainfall for Malaysia this year would be in October and November.

He said maximum rainfall for the early part of the year was in May and June, which was why Malaysia was seeing heavy rainfall in the country.

However, he said, there would be a break after June once the South West Monsoon kicks in as there would be less rain, adding that July, August and September would be dryer than now, especially in the West Coast.

“However, it would not be as bad as February.

“Rivers should start improving by the end of the year as the east coast would experience the North East Monsoon and there would be heavy rain from October to December.”



**Professor  
Datuk Azizan  
Abu Samah**