

Councils must do more to maintain retention ponds, says minister

By FERNANDO FONG

- 26 May 2016 @ 11:58 AM Facebook 8 Twitter Share 8 KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Datuk Hamim Samuri said retention ponds in the country are not well maintained due to lack of co-operation from local governments. He said there are more than 70 retention ponds in the country which are built by the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID). "Local governments are reluctant to maintain the retention ponds, possibly due to cost. "This problem is constantly discussed by the National Water Resources Council (NWRC) with stakeholders on how to achieve a solution.

"We need full co-operation from local governments if we want to ensure that retention ponds serve their purposes well," he said in Dewan Rakyat today when replying to a question by Dr Che Rosli Che Mat (PAS-Hulu Langat). Che Rosli had asked on the progress of the government's plan to build retention ponds at main rivers in the country. Hamim said the DID had published the Urban Stormwater Management Manual for Malaysia (MSMA), a drainage design guideline.

First published in year 2000, it is required by law in Malaysia for all to design drainage works to comply with the requirements of MSMA. Earlier on, Hamim also told the Dewan Rakyat that his ministry is committed to ensure that Malaysia maintains over 50 per cent of land under forest cover. He said water is one of the most important resources we obtain from forests which serve as catchment areas. He said planting the right trees can also optimise stormwater runoff reduction and improved water quality. "Trees can reduce surface water runoff by intercepting and holding large volumes of precipitation on surface areas," he said.



Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Datuk Hamim Samuri said retention ponds in the country are not well maintained due to lack of co-operation from local governments. Pix by ROSDAN WAHID

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