

story by
SARBAN SINGH



sarbans@thestar.com.my

Flood mitigation works in Negri Sembilan

Authorities identify 72 areas that may experience flash floods

HEAVY rains in recent days in Seremban after a prolonged dry season may be music to the ears of many residents but the state administration is now concerned that this may be a precursor to flash floods in low-lying areas.

Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said although his administration had spent millions of ringgit on flood mitigation projects since 2007, the authorities had identified another 72 locations that could experience flash floods if there were heavy, continuous rains.

"We have successfully carried out flood mitigation projects in many areas such as Seremban and Gemas over the years but we have not completely resolved the problem.

"Rapid development, poorly maintained drains and water retention ponds and the poor attitude of people who dump everything in the waterways can cause us problems," he said.

He said the state government had already started flood mitigation projects in some of the new areas it had identified.

"We are going to use funds from our reserves to do this quickly as floods can wreak havoc and cause a lot of damage," he said.

He added that among the projects that had started were in the Rantau-Mambau-Ulu Temiang triangle.

Without stating the cost, Mohamad said the project was expensive as it involved land acquisition to deepen and widen Sungai Simin in Rantau and Sungai Linggi.

He said the authorities would also be widening and deepening Sungai Pedas to

check flooding in the area.

"Previously, we used to allow third parties to take the sand in return for deepening Sungai Pedas but the villagers were upset with this arrangement.

"Since we stopped doing so, Pedas and some of its surrounding areas have been experiencing floods as the river has become shallow," he noted.

On a separate matter, Mohamad said he was glad that eight of the 11 state agencies audited by the Auditor-General were rated as excellent.

"The remaining three were rated 'good'," he said, adding that the overall financial management of state funds were also rated as good.



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