

No more floods in the Klang Valley by 2020

THE Government has given an assurance that the Klang Valley will be free of floods by 2020 when major flood mitigation projects are completed.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid said yesterday the projects included the Batu Flood Retention Ponds Project and the Klang Valley Flood Mitigation Project.

"However, other factors such as intensive development in catchment areas, haphazard or uncontrolled development, development on river plains and improper drainage can cause floods in new areas," he said.

The Government is now implementing the Sungai Kerayong Flood Mitigation Project, which involves increasing the river's capacity and building flood retention ponds near the Seri Johor flats here.

"The Sungai Kerayong can only accommodate about 50 per cent of the flood waters from its catchment area now," he said, winding up the debate on the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

The Government also has long-term plans under the 9MP to overcome floods in Integrated Agricultural Development Project areas in all States.

Also, all development in water catchment areas must be



Azmi says ministry tightening conditions for landfills

planned and only non-polluting projects would be approved.

Azmi said his ministry, through the Department of Environment, would only approve a landfill after a comprehensive environmental impact assessment had been carried out.

"If it's found that the impact is minimal or controllable, the report will be approved with tight conditions to protect the catchment area," he said.

For projects that were not subject to the EIA, the ministry would advise the approving authority on their suitability from the environmental aspect and control measures to protect the water catchment area from pollution, he said.

—Bernama