Klang to have new drainage system

KUALA LUMPUR: A revamp of the drainage system will take place soon, bringing an end to flash floods in Klang.

Selangor Drainage and Irrigation Department director Abdul Qahar Osman said with the new drainage system, residents in Klang would no longer be troubled by flash floods.

He said yesterday the estimated RM1 billion project, the third rolling plan of the 10th Malaysia Plan, would be implemented once approved.

"The department is very concerned about this matter and we will cooperate with the relevant authorities and departments to ensure the success of the plan."

Qahar added that the existing drainage system did not have the capacity to hold excessive water due to heavy rain.

"The drainage system needs improvement. After that, flash floods will not happen again."

Qahar said the improvement would include the upgrading of old drainage structures and the usage of a pump house to channel water into Sungai Klang.

He also denied that the flash floods were caused by the department's failure to manage the floodgates. He said it was a result of high tides and heavy rain.

"Normally, a 24-hour rainfall will only cause water to rise 50mm. Last Thursday, the one-hour rainfall caused water to rise 95mm."

He said the heavy rain coincided with the high tides and caused water to rise up to 4m in coastal areas, especially in the vicinity of Port Klang.

Among the affected areas were Taman Sri Andalas, Taman Selatan, Taman Bayu Perdana, Taman Melawis, Taman Sentosa, Taman Sg Ujong, Taman Palmgrove, Taman Chi Liang, Kampung Delak and Padang Jawa.

A number of schools were also forced to declare "emergency holiday" as the roads heading to the schools were under water.

Residents put the blame on the department for failing to open the floodgates and on uncollected garbage blocking the drains.