

Storage pond plan

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DID proposes to prevent floods in the city centre

By ANGELA RAO

THE Drainage and Irrigation Department (JPS) has proposed to build a storage pond upstream along the Klang River to prevent floods in the Masjid Jamek area.

The area is among the most flood-prone zones in Kuala Lumpur.

Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) director-general Datuk Keizrul Abdullah said the flow of the river had been badly affected after the LRT station was built.

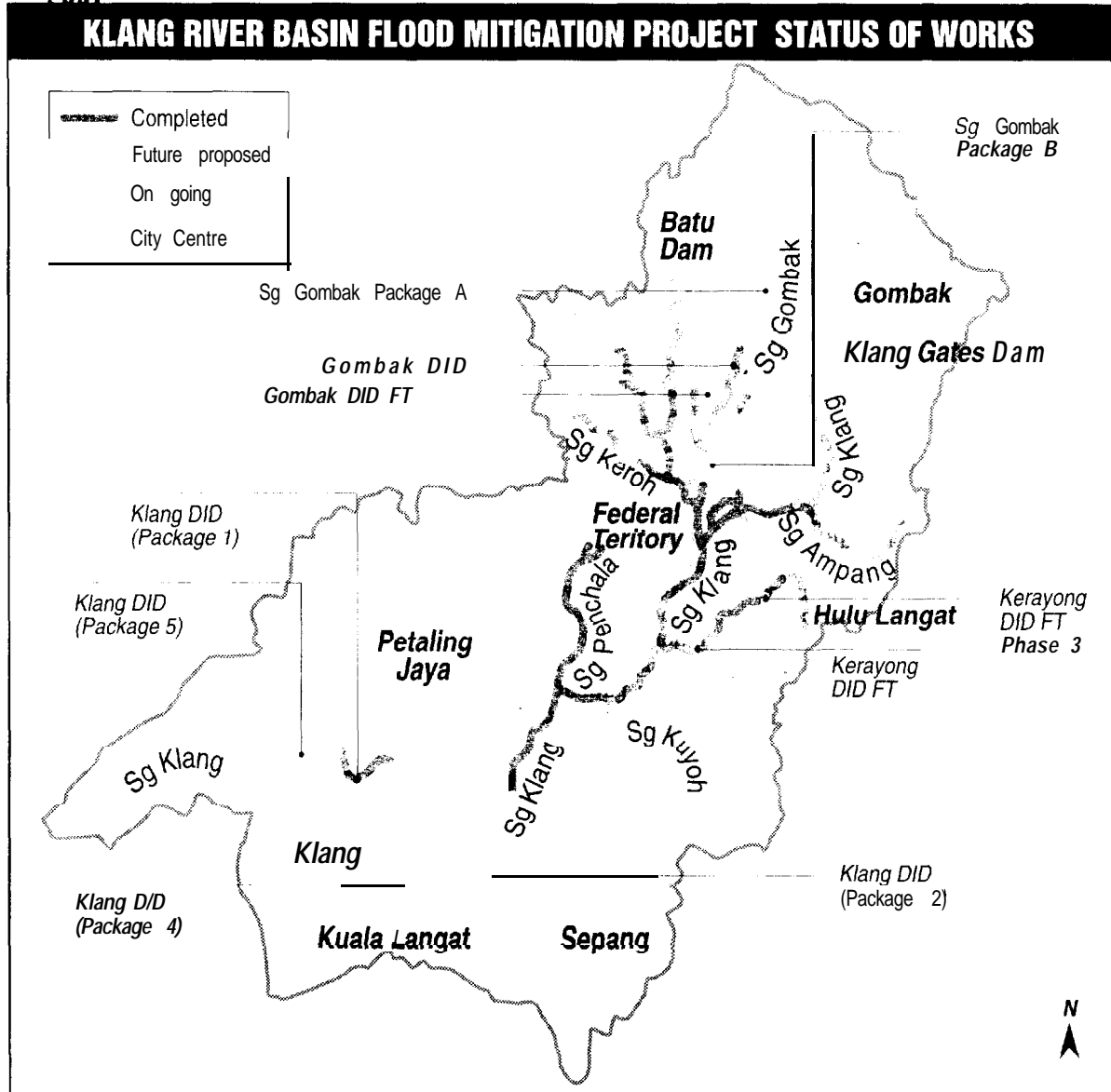
Some of the pillars of the station are embedded in the river.

"The only solution is to control the volume and speed of the water flow from upstream by creating a storage pond which will act as a dam.

"The excess water will be released slowly during a less critical stage of a downpour. Now, the river flows very fast and the excess water spills over to Jalan Melaka and Jalan Tun Perak, causing massive flash floods," he added.

Keizrul, who presented the Klang River Basin Environmental Improvement and Flood Mitigation Project interim report at the Parkroyal Hotel on Tuesday, said building a dam would be a better solution but the high cost was a hindrance.

The five packages under the project are being handled by a consortium of consultants engaged by the



Government to resolve the flooding problem in the Klang Valley under a "holistic" approach.

A major part of the work upstream has been completed but the floods two weeks ago indicated that the river capacity at the stretch from the Tun Perak bridge to the Jalan Sulaiman bridge had been greatly decreased.

The DID chief said the storage

pond was included in the Flood Bypass for the City proposal presented to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last week.

He said the Government was seriously considering the DID's flood bypass proposal.

"We don't have that many options, but this proposal will reduce the flooding problem effec-

tively as long as we can draw water away from the city," he added.

He declined to reveal the cost or details of the project, which was expected to take about five years to be completed.

Keizrul said the department was also doing its best to complete the construction of 28 retention ponds in the Klang Valley.