

PM: MORE SABO STRUCTURES TO BE BUILT

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This is to reduce floods caused by debris flow like in Baling, says PM

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THE government plans to build more sabo structures in the country to reduce the risk of floods caused by debris flow, similar to the incident in Baling, Kedah, which claimed three lives, destroyed hundreds of homes and displaced numerous others.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said this after chairing a National Water Council meeting at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre here.

“The sabo structure is built across the riverbed and serves to hold debris, including rocks, mud and timber, thus slowing down the flow of water and reducing the impact brought by heavy currents, especially following heavy rains. A sabo structure is being built in Yan, Kedah, and will be built in Baling and Janda Baik, Pahang, soon,” he said.

He also said the government had set aside RM393 billion for climate change adaptation, which would be implemented through various projects over the next 50 years.

Of that sum, RM15 billion had been set aside to carry out flood mitigation projects from 2023 to 2030.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob chairing the National Water Council meeting at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Ismail Sabri also said he had instructed the relevant authorities and agencies to increase the use of groundwater and rainwater resources to reduce dependence on treated water, including for use in rural areas, crop irrigation and sewage systems.

“The use of low-cost and easily available alternative water sources should be considered in infrastructure developments and new buildings has been imple-

mented in most countries to save the cost of using treated water.”

Malaysia reportedly consumes less than three per cent of the resource compared with other countries. However, the national groundwater resource has a capacity of 5,000 billion cubic metres.

Present at the meeting were cabinet ministers, menteri besar, chief ministers, the chief Sec-

retary to the government, the treasury secretary-general as well as the relevant department and agency heads.

He said the meeting had also decided to consider the papers raised — the Water Sector Transformation 2040, the Recognition of the Water Quality Laboratory Services at the National Water Research Institute Malaysia (Nahrim) as a Water Research Forensic Laboratory and sharing

flood hazard maps with the public.

“The Water Sector Transformation Agenda 2040 reveals the federal government’s commitment in developing the country’s water sector to ensure water security and sustainability, as well as to make the water sector a catalyst for the country’s economy.”

The second paper proposes that the Water Quality Laboratory at Nahrim serves as a reference centre for investigating water pollution incidents.

“This laboratory, which has been accredited by MS ISO: IEC 17025, can be an alternative to the laboratory of the Chemistry Department for forensic water pollution research.

“The laboratory is equipped with world-class facilities with competent expertise and is recognised by the Malaysian Institute of Chemistry and the Malaysian Council of Food Analysts. It is also capable of making analysis related to water pollution covering more than 200 chemical and microbiological parameters.”

Ismail Sabri said sharing the flood hazard map would show areas that could be flooded based on current and future land-use maps.

“The practice of sharing flood hazard maps is also implemented by other countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom.

“Sharing these maps helps stakeholders in development planning, such as District Local Plans or State Structural Plans, as well as plans for flood disaster management.”