

## MITIGATION WORKS

# PM: TENDER FOR ALL HIGH-IMPACT PROJECTS

Hasty approvals for negotiated deals have led to losses

### KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said direct negotiations for flood mitigation projects only served to "waste the people's money".

While tabling the 2023 Budget, he said although such projects were important, the haste in which previous flood management projects were approved had

led to losses for the country.

"These projects have been cancelled and are now being probed by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), as well as the Attorney-General's Chambers," he said.

Anwar said to ensure that flood mitigation projects achieve their goal, people-based high-impact projects must be done via tender to guarantee the best returns and lead to savings for the government.



Dark clouds over Sungai Johor in Kota Tinggi. Flood mitigation work on the river is among six projects that will be re-tendered by June. FILE PIC

"For example, the government is expected to save RM2 billion from the RM15 billion allocated for flood mitigation projects previously. As such, these projects must be done via open tender,"

he said. Anwar said this year, six flood management projects would be re-tendered by June.

These projects, he said, involved the flood mitigation works in Sungai Johor, Kota Tinggi; the

construction of retention ponds in Sungai Rasau and Sungai Klang in Selangor, as well as the development of a unified river basin for Sungai Golok (Phase 3) in Kelantan.