

TO START IN JUNE

# FAST-TRACK FOR RM600m FLOOD PROJECTS

PM's announcement comes as more than 50,000 evacuated nationwide

## SEGAMAT

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said flood mitigation projects worth more than RM600 million will be expedited, especially in Johor.

His announcement comes as the number of flood evacuees exceeded 50,000 nationwide.

Anwar gave an assurance that the projects would start in June and the tendering process would be carried out soon.

"If we don't do anything serious to address this issue, it will happen again.

"This is not the first time, and it has been going on for years, sometimes twice a year.

"So we decided that flood mitigation projects worth RM600 million will be expedited," he said after visiting the relief centre at SJK(C) Kampung Tengah here yesterday.

"I warn officials against using

the allocations for floods, emergencies or other situations, such as for flood mitigation projects, as an opportunity to make extra money."

When tabling the 2023 Budget, he said six flood mitigation projects, including one in Sungai Johor, Kota Tinggi, would be re-tendered by June.

He said the postponement was to prevent leakages and ensure fulfilment of the projects' goals.

Among the projects are the construction of the Sungai Klang-Sungai Rasau dual-function reservoir in Selangor and Phase 3 of the Sungai Golok Integrated River Basin Development Project in Kelantan.

On Dec 6, Anwar, who is also finance minister, had ordered a review of RM7 billion of flood mitigation projects approved through direct negotiation instead of a tender process.

These projects were part of RM15 billion of approved works.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim being briefed on the flood situation at the SJK(C) Kampung Tengah relief centre in Segamat, Johor, yesterday. PIC BY NUR AISYAH MAZALAN

He said the federal government had also approved RM10 million in flood aid.

"I have announced an additional RM50 million to be channelled to flood victims and urgent projects."

He said Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi had requested new projects to be implemented in the state to reduce the impact of floods.

"I told him that since we can save around RM1 billion to RM2 billion from old projects, the money will be used for new projects in Segamat, Kota Tinggi and other areas badly hit by floods," he said.

He said several government-linked companies had raised RM20 million to help Johor residents.

"Tenaga Nasional Bhd will immediately solve electricity prob-

lems, Yayasan Sime Darby has provided health kits for more than 1,500 families, while the rest raised RM20 million in flood relief funds for Johor."

The government has maintained its decision to not declare a disaster in Johor as the weather was improving.

Up to 2pm yesterday, the number of flood evacuees reached 50,791 nationwide.

Johor had 46,742 displaced people, followed by 3,042 in Pahang, 516 in Melaka, 478 in Negri Sembilan and 13 in Selangor.

The Johor Disaster Management Committee said there were 264 flood relief centres in all 10 districts.

Batu Pahat was the worst-hit district with 15,915 victims, followed by 13,319 in Segamat, 5,270 in Kluang, 4,103 in Muar, 3,249 in Kota Tinggi, 3,007 in Tangkak,

975 in Mersing, 511 in Johor Baru, 330 in Pontian and 63 in Kulai.

In Pahang, the number of flood victims yesterday increased to 3,042 from 2,978 the previous day. Up to press time, 2,717 victims were in Rompin, 296 in Temerloh and 29 in Maran.

Up to 11am yesterday in Melaka, there were 516 victims housed at six relief centres.

Negri Sembilan Civil Defence Force director Lieutenant-Colonel Mohd Nazri Mes Kam said there were 478 evacuees at two relief centres in Tampin.

In Selangor, 13 people were housed at the SK Merbau Sempak relief centre. **Bernama**

*Page 1 pic: Flood victims evacuating the shelter at Sekolah Kebangsaan Pianggu in Rompin, Pahang, because of rising floodwater yesterday.*