

# Govt to spend RM20b on flood-mitigation projects under 13MP

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government will allocate RM20 billion for flood-mitigation projects over five years under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP), Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced yesterday when tabling the plan.

He said disaster risk management plans would be incorporated into state structure plans and local plans.

According to the 13MP, five targets have been set to strengthen flood mitigation and adaptation:

**EXPANDING** flood-protected areas;

**CONSTRUCTING** new retention ponds;

**COMPLETING** priority flood projects;

**INITIATING** integrated river basin developments; and,

**ENHANCING** community-based disaster preparedness.

Anwar said: "The government cannot stop rain from falling, but we can strengthen infrastructure and preparedness to reduce disaster risks and minimise the loss of lives and property.

"We can no longer wait until disasters occur before acting, because prevention and preparedness are far more effective and less costly than post-disaster recovery."

The plan places climate change adaptation as a national priority, with commitments to build climate-resilient cities, strengthen water resource management, and introduce climate risk as-

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**DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM**  
Prime Minister

assessments in all new developments.

"Malaysia cannot ignore the reality of climate change — floods, landslides and rising sea levels are no longer distant threats, but challenges we face today.

"This government is committed to climate action that protects lives, secures livelihoods and ensures that no community is left behind in facing future risks."

He said disaster management would also be supported by better coordination between federal and state agencies, as well as the use of data and technology to improve early warning systems.

"Stronger institutions, clearer responsibilities and the use of artificial intelligence-based forecasting models will enable faster responses and save lives.

"Our goal is to build a Malaysia that is resilient, sustainable and prepared to face any crisis with confidence and unity."