

Malaysia Using 'Lidar' Technology To Detect Natural Disasters

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 23 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is currently using a sophisticated system called 'Light Detection and Ranging' (LiDAR) to detect and predict natural disasters for managing disasters more efficiently and effectively.

Natural Resources and Environment Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Dr James Dawos Mamin said the system was currently used by agencies under the ministry, Minerals and Geoscience Department, together with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) for 'landslide mapping' in Cameron Highlands, Ipoh and Klang Valley.

"For example, we are using the LiDAR technology to observe and discuss problems in Cameron Highlands.

"The technology can predict landslides in forests and tree-filled areas so that we can measure and cut down the trees. We can also predict from the characteristics of the soil whether a natural disaster will occur or not," he said.

LiDAR is an alternative for the conventional mapping technology involving a larger area of several hundred hectares mapped more efficiently, and is cost-effective.

"Hopefully, we can use the LiDAR technology in many areas. It certainly can be used nationwide. For now, after the great floods in Gua Musang (Kelantan), we need such a technology so that the ministry can draw flood prevention and mitigation plans," said James.

He was speaking to reporters after officiating the International Symposium on Multi-Hazard and Risk 2015 at UTM here Monday.

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