

Zahid Launches RM75 Million Teluk Intan Flood Mitigation Project

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TELUK INTAN, April 10 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today launched the RM75 million Teluk Intan Flood Mitigation project as a long-term plan which can withstand until 2100.

The project handled by the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID), a sequel of the 10th Malaysia Plan includes the construction of a 2.2 km long stone embankment, divided into two zones which was started in December last year and is expected to be completed by 2018 end, to overcome erosion and flooding.

It is the sixth and seventh package for the second phase involving the construction of Zone B on the cliffs along Jalan Woo Saik till the Kampung Terengganu Jetty in Pasir Berdamar near here, along 1.7 km, while the construction of Zone A is only 500 metres along Jalan Wah Keng Jooi.

Ahmad Zahid, in his speech, said the project would benefit 247,000 people living near the Sungai Perak basin around 16.25 square kilometres across Hilir Perak when completed.

"Sungai Perak is the second longest river in the Peninsular after Sungai Pahang and the project is not seen as a flood mitigation project alone. This is because it can also prevent debris from upstream Sungai Perak from gathering at the estuary.

"I hope this project can be completed in the near future according to the government's financial ability," he said at the ground breaking ceremony of the Teluk Intan RTB at Kampung Terengganu open hall here, today.

According to Ahmad Zahid, the RTB project will also prevent frequent floods in Kampung Permatang Pelanduk as well as in the area around Changkat Jong here, caused by tides.

The ground level in Teluk Intan which is between 1.6 and 2.5 metres is substantially lower than the 2.75 metres high tide, causing constant floods, erosion of river banks and its collapse which poses a threat to people.

Meanwhile, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, who was present told a press conference the Federal Government had estimated a cost of about RM39 billion to implement the RTB project nationwide. However, the cost was expected to increase in the next five years.

"We estimate an additional cost of RM340 million will be allocated for the development of the Sungai Perak Integrated River Basin in Teluk Intan, Perak, involving a cost RM250 million, while RM8.5 million will be allocated for Bagan Datoh.

"This includes a number of small projects costing between RM200,000 and RM1 million which will be implemented for flood mitigation projects," Wan Junaidi said.

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