

Sg Klang flood mitigation assurance



PROGRESSING AS SCHEDULED ... river widening work at Sungai Batu.

By Rosnazura Idrus

CITY residents are expected to be spared major floods when the Sungai Klang Basin Flood Mitigation programme is completed in 2007 but flash floods will continue to be part and parcel of life in and around Kuala Lumpur.

Federal Territory Drainage and Irrigation Department director Tan Jiak Kim said the programme would prevent floods traditionally caused by rivers overflowing their banks after heavy rain.

"However, it will not prevent floods resulting from a very high intensity of rainfall that occurs in localised areas and lasts a few hours.

"Such floods also cover a large area and cause extensive damage," he said.

Tan said flash floods were usually associated with clogged culverts or drains.

The projects, which began in 1973, were initially estimated to cost a total of RM760 million.

The cost is, however, expected to touch RM1 billion when the projects are completed in 12 years' time.

They involve three major aspects — dam construction, improvement work on three major rivers and improvement work on the trunk drainage system or tributaries.

Tan said work on the first component included the construction of the RM19.7 million Batu Dam in 1987

and the raising of the Klang Gate Dam at RM3.4 million in 1980.

Works on three major rivers include the channelising of Sungai Klang, Sungai Batu and Sungai Gombak.

This involves a total length of 95km.

On work along the Sungai Klang, Tan said it involved river lining and desilting.

The lining job which kicked off in the 1980s began at the upper reaches of the river. Work has been completed up to a point near Jalan Tun Razak.

Desilting on the downstream portion from the Federal Highway to the Puchong Drop, which began in 1993, was recently completed.

"Desilting at Sungai Klang is being carried out from Puchong Drop to Shah Alam and involves a distance of 19km."

On the Sungai Batu river project, also known as Sungai Batu revetment project, he said it involved a distance of 2.4km from Jalan Segambut bridge to the 4½ mile Jalan Ipoh bridge.

The work involves widening, deepening and concrete lining of the river using "L" units.

The river is being widened from 20 metres to 32 metres and deepened to three metres.

"As a result, the river capacity will be increased and overflowing will not occur easily."



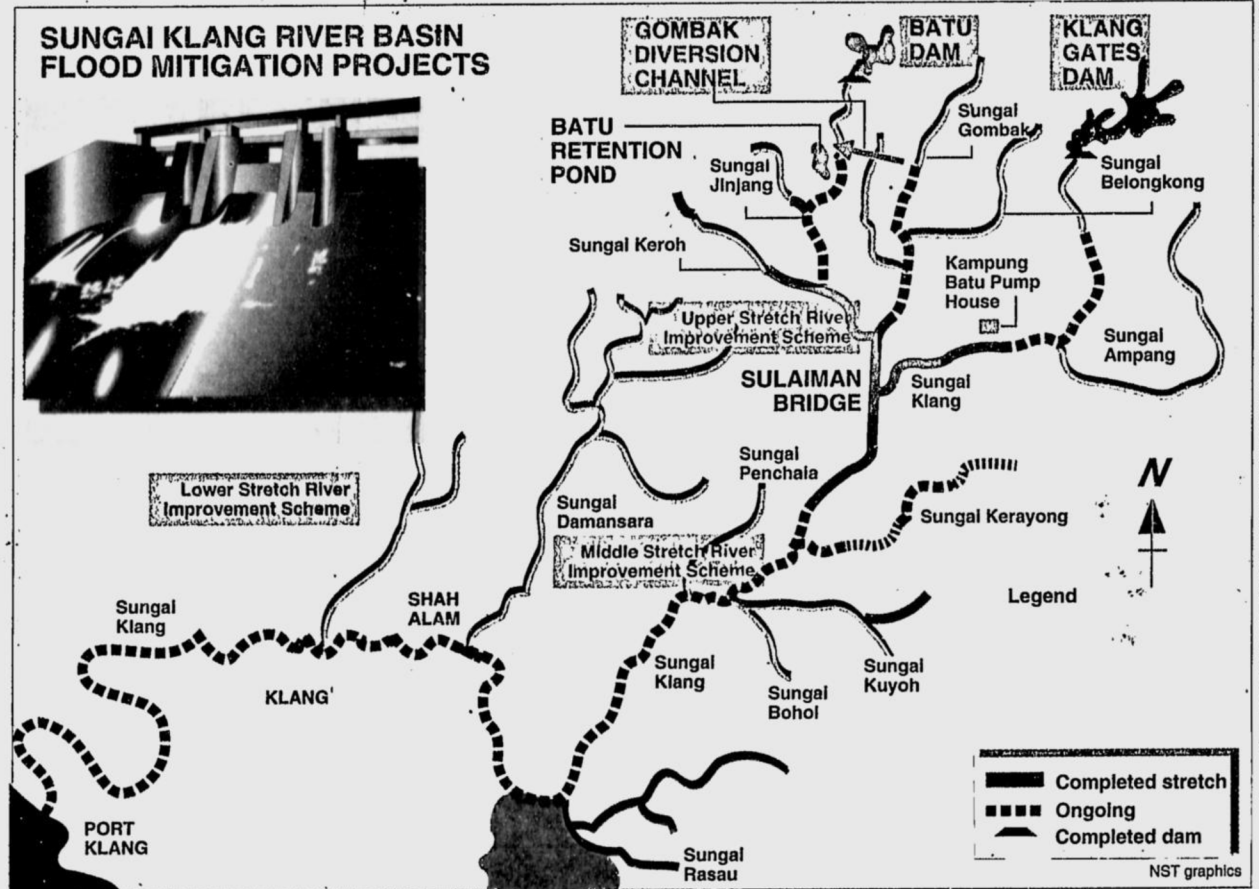
TAN ... prevent overflow

According to Tan, the river widening project at Sungai Batu, which is 80 per cent completed, began in May 1992 and was originally expected to be completed in May this year.

"But due to some problems with the squatters in the area, the completion has been delayed until the end of the year," he said.

Besides the revetment job, work on the Sungai Batu also includes the Batu retention pond project.

Under the dam construction component in the flood mitigation project, a dam was supposed to be constructed for Sungai Gombak but due to unforeseen problems, the project was called off.



As for Sungai Gombak, Tan said the project had been awarded to the contractors in November last year.

The project will involve a four km stretch at the upper reaches of the river at a cost of about RM13.2 million.

"We are designing the last four km," he said.

On improvement work on the trunk drainage system which relates to river widening and deepening, he said it involved eight tributaries.

They are the Sungai Kerayong, Sungai Keroh, Sungai Jinjang, Sungai Kuyoh, Sungai Bohol, Sungai Belongkong, Sungai Kamuning and Sungai Penchala.



BON JOVI'S CONCERT

EVERYTHING was perfect. The Shah Alam Stadium stood in the fog like a giant mothership waiting to abduct our youth, with the help, of course, of modern day Pied Piper Jon Bon Jovi. Fans started arriving at 2pm and by 6pm, reverberations could be heard from outside the stadium. Bon Jovi was due to perform at 8.30pm.

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OILMEN'S GALA DINNER

MEMBERS of the Malaysian Petroleum Club converged at Kuala Lumpur Hilton grand ballroom recently for their annual oilmen's gala dinner. More than 1,200 attended. The night featured performances by comedian Harith Iskandar and rising star Ning Baizura.

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