

## Govt to review drainage system for future projects

THE recent flood that inundated Penang has prompted the Government to review drainage and flood mitigation system for future development projects.

Natural Resources and Environment Deputy Minister Datuk Hamim Samuri said the review is necessary as current drainage and flood mitigation designs have not taken into account changing rain patterns brought about by climate change.

"The ministry, through the Drainage and Irrigation Department, will review the drainage designs that are required for projects prior to their approval," he said when debating a motion on the flood in Penang at Dewan Rakyat's special chambers.

Hamim described the flood in Penang as a natural disaster caused by exceptionally heavy rain coupled with a storm surge and gale force winds.

However, he noted that rapid development in Penang had also contributed to the flooding.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim urged Penang's Voluntary Patrol Unit to join the Civil Defence Force to better serve

the community. *STAR - 24*

"The Penang patrol unit should join the civil defence as they will be given equipment and a forward base to carry out their operations," he said.

He said the units would be more effective as they will be able help in rescue and relief operations in their respective communities.

He said more than 1,722 families affected by the floods had registered for aid but the quantum has not been decided.

He was responding to Sim Tze Tzin (DAP-Bayan Baru) who requested that the state's voluntary unit is recognised to allow them to help flood victims, particularly the aged.

Earlier, Ng Wei Aik (DAP-Tanjung) said the Government did not provide allocation that was planned for flood mitigation projects in Penang.

He said that RM2.6bil was planned for flood mitigation projects in Penang over the last 17 years but only RM1.04bil was given.

Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia allowed the motion to debate the Penang flood when it was raised by Ng Wei Aik under Standing Order 18 (1).