

# Minister: Govt to relook flood mitigation plans

7/11

MM-2

**KUALA LUMPUR** — The government needs to relook at its flood mitigation plans as the rain patterns have changed and more places are getting flooded, said Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar.

Visiting the National Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre at the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) in Ampang yesterday, Wan Junaidi said the government must relook the plans following unexpected floods in Penang over the weekend.

"The government must consider the meteorological data gathered from Penang and other states," he said.

"The mitigation framework was drafted in 2014 following the floods in Kelantan and other east coast states, but the revision must now factor in data gathered from the recent floods in Penang.

"There are places we did not expect would be flooded, but now these areas are affected so we must find out the cause."

Wan Junaidi attributed the floods partly to the monsoon transition period.

"We are transitioning from the Northeast Monsoon to the Southwest Monsoon and this might cause more floods in the northern states until the end of the month," he said.

"We haven't seen this much rainfall in the region for some 20 years. It is also due to the changing climate and this makes it harder to forecast the weather.

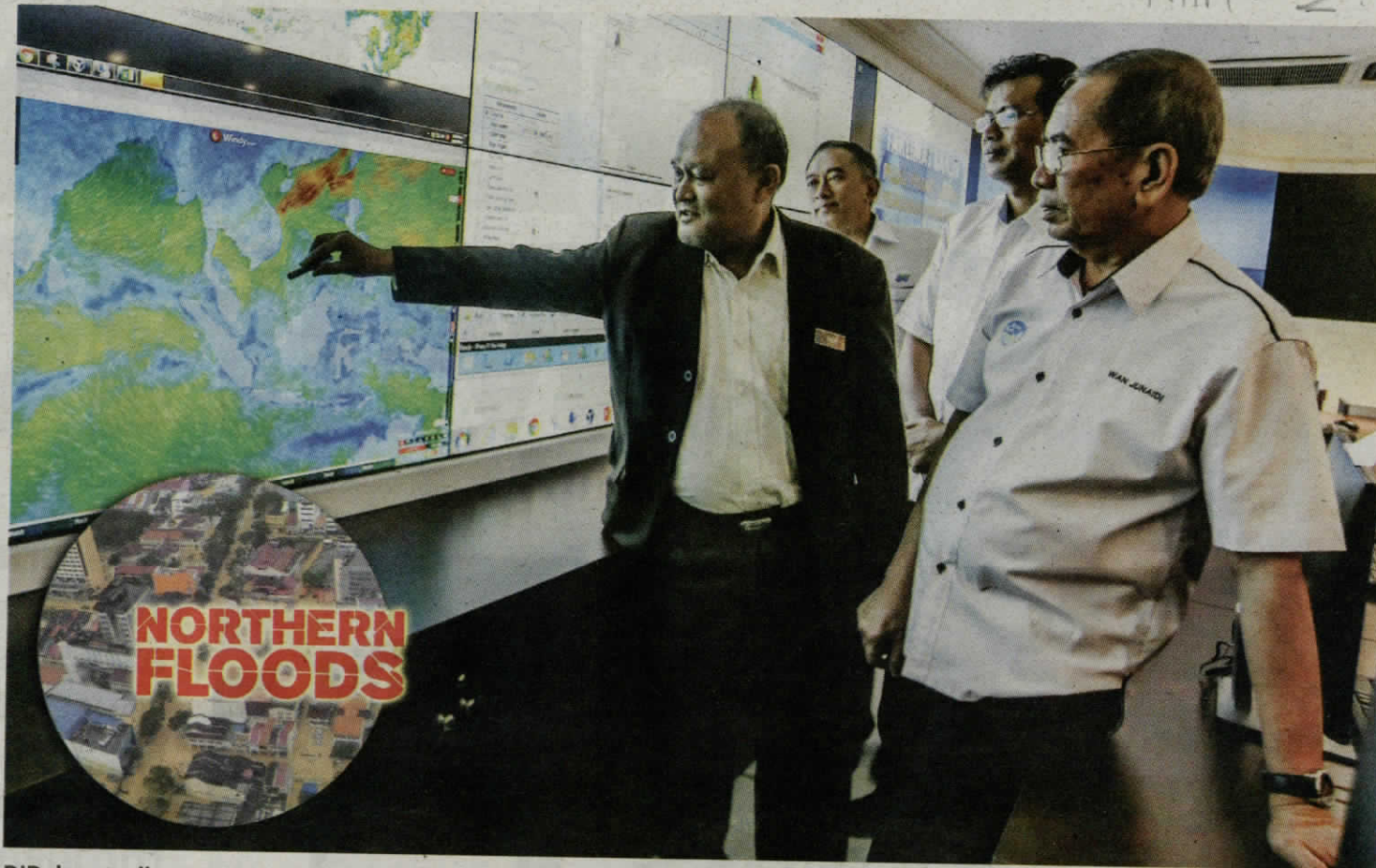
"The northern states must brace for potential floods, and the authorities and the public must work together to ensure all evacuation efforts are seamless if they occur."

Wan Junaidi said 16 flood mitigation projects will be rolled out over the next few months.

"The total cost of these projects nationwide comes up to RM4.3 billion," he said.

"We hope that through this effort, Malaysia will be better equipped and ready for future floods."

Wan Junaidi urged the Penang government



DID deputy director-general Datuk Dr Mohd Nasir Noh (left) briefs Wan Junaidi (right) on the weather conditions in Malaysia yesterday. — Picture by Hari Anggara

to halt all hillslope development projects after a second landslide occurred in Tanjung Bungah on Sunday.

He said the safety of the people was a top priority and the state authorities should reconsider such developments.

"I urge for all hillslope projects to be discontinued as we have seen many instances where they have caused harm," he said.

*Malay Mail Online* reports the Institution of Engineers (IEM) has urged the federal government to shift its attention to climate change, after Penang and Kedah experienced

extraordinary rainfall over the weekend.

IEM president Tan Yean Chin noted that many places in Malaysia were already experiencing rainfall exceeding the 100-year Average Recurrence Interval (ARI).

"The climatic change factor should be considered in all the development and flood mitigation measures by assessing its impact and how resilient we are in facing the changes," he said in a statement.

"The National Hydraulic Research Institute Malaysia (Nahrim) technical guide on *Estimation of Future Design Rainstorm under the Climate Change Scenario* in

*Peninsular Malaysia* is a good reference for adoption."

Tan said the capacity at most river and drain systems in Penang and Kedah was less than the 100-year ARI.

He proposed for Putrajaya to implement a comprehensive and integrated flood mitigation masterplan to cater to the development planning in both the affected states.

The master plan should include the flood mitigation and prevention action plans for current and future developments, land use changes as well as climatic change factor.