

RM239m to revive rivers

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A TOTAL of RM239mil will be pumped into reviving and managing three rivers in Penang.

This includes a RM180mil flood mitigation project at Sungai Prai.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid however said that under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP), the initial allocation for Sungai Pinang, Sungai Juru and Sungai Prai was only RM107mil.

He said he would be bringing the matter before the Finance Ministry to come out with the remaining RM132mil.

"A total of RM60mil has been approved for the Sungai Prai flood mitigation project under the 9MP.

"We need another RM120mil to complete the whole project.

"The work at Sungai Prai is ahead of schedule, with the project currently 30% completed," he said after inspecting Sungai Juru in Nibong Tebal on Thursday.

Another RM30mil is needed to improve the water quality of Sungai Juru but the allocation under 9MP is only RM18mil, he said.

"Sungai Juru is in a better shape than Sungai Pinang but it is also very polluted.

"A study is now being conducted to determine pollutants at Sungai Juru," he said.

As for Sungai Pinang on the island, Azmi said the RM25mil de-silting project there was underway but a RM4mil study to identify pollutants was being done concurrently and would be completed by March next year.



WATER QUALITY:
Azmi (white cap) checking the condition of Sungai Juru.