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# DBKL seeks RM500mil for flood mitigation plan

## Mayor: Federal funds needed for infrastructure projects

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KUALA LUMPUR'S flash flood preparations will receive a huge boost should a RM500mil allocation request from the Federal Government be approved.

The funds will go towards infrastructure projects such as building water retention facilities and flood walls.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah said the application for extra funds was made recently and was currently being reviewed.

He said Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) was mulling a plan to build an underground water storage as a flood mitigation measure.

"However, such infrastructure projects tend to be very costly and often also involve land acquisition process.

"We will need to identify a vacant lot for such a facility and turn the area above the ground into a recreational venue," he added.

Mahadi says DBKL has set aside RM67.8mil for flood mitigation efforts in its budget.

Noting that a feasibility study is ongoing, Mahadi said a similar measure was already employed in Tokyo, Japan and Copenhagen, Denmark.

On Sept 5 last year, *StarMetro* reported of a consultant having been appointed to study the proposal, with findings to be revealed in five months.

Several technical factors such as gravity and topography of the potential sites were among issues being looked into.

Mahadi was speaking at a press conference on City Hall's 2023 budget at Menara DBKL 1 in Jalan Raja Laut, Kuala Lumpur.

In terms of the budget, RM67.8mil has been set aside for flood mitigation efforts, of which RM39.4mil is for the maintenance of riverbanks, pump houses and drainage.

Another RM28.4mil is for DBKL to upgrade existing drains and retention ponds, as well as to place sandbags at flood hotspots.

Mahadi said this year's RM2.6bil budget was a 3.7% drop from the RM2.7bil set aside last year.

DBKL projects a 9.4% reduction in revenue this year, owing to a substantial drop in the collection of development control and planning fees.

It expects to collect only RM224.3mil this year, compared to RM433.5mil in 2022, which is nearly a 50% drop.

"However, our main income stream, which is the assessment fee collection, is expected to increase by 0.7% to RM1.37bil," said Mahadi.

On hawker site management, DBKL plans to spend RM54.3mil on the maintenance and upgrades of commercial centres and public markets.

Among venues identified for this purpose are the Genting Klang bazaria, Chow Kit market, Pekan Sungai Besi, Keramat Mall, Taman Tun Dr Ismail market and UTC Sentul.

Some RM266.4mil has been allocated for road upgrades and traffic management, which includes road widening projects and building new road connections.