

'Claims of delayed response to KL flash flood inaccurate'

KUALA LUMPUR: Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa has denied claims that the Irrigation and Drainage Department (DID) and Kuala Lumpur City Hall were late in responding to the flash flood on Oct 15.

She said DID and City Hall personnel were on the ground throughout the incident.

"According to meteorological reports, the rain began at 8.30am and stopped around 10.45am.

"During that period, DID and City Hall personnel worked to redirect water and assist in draining floodwaters.

"Therefore, claims of their late arrival are inaccurate," she said during the Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

The torrential downpour during rush hour on Oct 15 caused major traffic jams as several roads in the city were submerged.

Pictures and videos of cars stuck in floodwaters were widely shared on social media.

Dr Zaliha said two of the 14 flood mitigation projects in the city had been completed.

She said another four projects were in the implementation stage

and eight were in the tender analysis stage.

"We completed seven flood mitigation projects in 2022 and 2023, while from 2025 to 2027, four more projects are being planned to boost flood resilience in Kuala Lumpur.

"These are the long-term efforts aimed at addressing and mitigating the impacts of flooding in Kuala Lumpur, which serves not only as the main gateway to the country but also as the capital and a regional economic hub, especially since Malaysia is set to chair the Asean summit next year.

"As such, flood preparedness is essential," she said in response to Onn Abu Bakar (Pakatan Harapan-Batu Pahat).

Onn had inquired about Kuala Lumpur's state of readiness for the 2025 Asean Chairmanship and Visit Malaysia Year in 2026, given that the issue of flash floods has yet to be resolved and may affect the country's image and preparations for those events.

As a short-term measure in addressing flash floods, Dr Zaliha said City Hall has coordinated efforts to clean drainage systems, including in areas affected by flash floods.