



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

#### **RESPONSE TO THE ARTICLE: *TIME FOR ACTION ON RECURRING FLOODS***

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BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN  
THURSDAY, 07 REJAB 1446 / 06 FEBRUARY 2025

The Ministry of Development refers to the article titled "Time for Action on Recurring Floods" published on the 'Opinion Page' of the Borneo Bulletin on 1 February 2025.

The Ministry is aware that recurring floods, especially in some areas of the Belait and Tutong Districts, have impacted the well-being of the people and affected the nation's economy. Therefore, the Ministry is committed to implementing both short-term and long-term solutions as part of a holistic approach to resolving this issue.

The unpredictable weather, with heavy rainfall mainly during the night and early morning, recorded 232 mm of rainfall on January 28, 2025. This, combined with high tides, worsened the flooding situation in the Belait and Tutong Districts.

Flood events, particularly in Tutong, have occurred in areas identified as floodplains. In response, the Ministry would like to share some long-term flood mitigation projects, including :-

- The construction of flood retention ponds in Kampong Tanjung Maya, Kampong Pemandang, Kampong Bang Ligi, and Kampong Kiudang;
- The installation of embankment systems and pumps in Kampong Lubok Pulau, Kampong Tanjung Maya, and some areas in Kampong Penapar, which have reduced flood risks in these areas;
- Dredging works to improve the flow and capacity of rivers.

Similar pumping systems have also been installed in the Belait district, particularly in Panaga, Seria, and parts of the Kuala Belait municipality. These have successfully reduced flood risks and improved drainage capacity in these areas. However, improvements are still needed to address threats related to climate change, which contribute to the increasing intensity and frequency of flash floods.

The Ministry of Development, through the Department of Drainage and Sewerage, has implemented a Development Control Strategy to reduce flood risks by limiting developments near rivers. In addition, the Ministry continues to work on the National Development Plan (RKN) projects and ongoing maintenance programs, while closely collaborating with penghulus and village heads to monitor and ensure the effectiveness of flood mitigation measures.

The Ministry of Development and its departments appreciate public feedback and concerns regarding the flood issue. Therefore, the Ministry encourages everyone to remain vigilant, especially during these uncertain weather conditions. The Ministry remains committed to implementing sustainable long-term strategies, not only to reduce flood risks but also to address public concerns and ensure the continued well-being of the people.

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