

Lack of data hampering early flood warning

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AN ACADEMIC from a university has called for government agencies to introduce a more efficient early warning flood system to help victims and prevent loss of livestock.

“Although flood management in Malaysia is categorised as one of the finest, but the current system can be improved especially in terms of geological data and geotechnical that provides detailed information on areas with high population density,” said Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Environment Management Department lecturer, Prof Madya Dr Zelina Zaiton Ibrahim in an interview with *Berita Harian*.

She also highlighted that the country is lacking flood data which is making it harder for analysts to be prepared for any extraordinary deluge in the future.

“Malaysia only has data which is as old as 30 to 50 years compared with other countries whose data is about 100 years old as we only implemented the system about 50 years ago,” she said.

“The lack of data poses a hindrance for experts to analyse extraordinary disasters or high-risk areas that had happened in certain areas around 100 years ago,”

She suggested that the data system be updated consistently every five years to study any pattern changes happening in high-risk areas and at the same time making the flood early warning system more efficient.

“Each updated data is important to evaluate whether an area has a high probability to flood or not,” she said.

She said the system must also have a database that is connected to relevant agencies so that early action could be taken.

She added that Malaysia could benefit from the data received from the existing networking with external satellites in providing better service to the public.