

Headline	More HEP dams needed to mitigate flooding		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (Kuching)		
Date	03 Jun 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Home	Circulation	88,150
Page No	9	Readership	166,173
Language	English	ArticleSize	446 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	Lim How Pirn	AdValue	RM 5,136
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 15,407



# 'More HEP dams needed to mitigate flooding'

A hydroelectric dam comes with catchment areas where the rainwater is being kept in them. Catchment area is usually at the upper part of the river and when it is full, the water will be released in small quantities.

Datuk Dr James Dawos, Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister

## Lim How Pim

**KUCHING:** Sarawak needs more hydroelectric dams or even barrage to help mitigate flooding problems, said Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Dr James Dawos.

With this, he urged the state government to carry on building more hydroelectric dams throughout Sarawak, which now has four, namely Bakun Dam, Batang Ai Dam, Murum Dam and Bengoh Dam.

Of the four dams, only Bengoh Dam is for water supply while the rest are generating power for industrial development in the state, he explained.

"A hydroelectric dam comes with catchment areas where the rainwater is being kept in them. Catchment area is usually at the upper part of the river and when it is full, the water will be released in small quantities.

"This will help prevent flooding.

Also, you can see flooding has not occurred in Kuching in the last four to five years, thanks to the barrage (a tidal structure built across a river to control water level) at Sejingkat," he told journalists when met at his Gawai Dayak open house at Taman Stutong Indah here on Saturday.

Dawos, who is also Mambong MP, pointed out that the rainfall in Sarawak had generally gone up compared to that of 1960s while Kuching and Samarahan in particular marked a 40 per cent up. "Increasing rainfall is the problem, and we cannot mitigate the effect of climate change either. Therefore, if the state government has the money, it should build more hydroelectric dams.

"Flooding can cause serious financial loss. Take the Mississippi in the United States for instance, it has lost USD16

trillion to flooding."

He said it was nonsensical for some non-governmental organisations to accuse the government of destroying habitats following the clearing of forests to pave way for oil palm plantation.

"We have proposed areas to be gazetted for wildlife sanctuaries. To add to that, based on the research by FRIM (Forest Research Institute Malaysia), oil palm absorbs more carbon dioxide gas."

On climate change, Dawos said Malaysia had registered a 2.6 degree Celsius rise in the recent years.

"It used to be between 27 and 29 degrees Celsius, but now it can go up to 34 degrees Celsius while in some places, it has shot up to 37 degrees Celsius if the weather is very hot."

Headline	More HEP dams needed to mitigate flooding		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (Kuching)		
Date	03 Jun 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Home	Circulation	88,150
Page No	9	Readership	166,173
Language	English	ArticleSize	446 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	Lim How Pirn	AdValue	RM 5,136
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 15,407



1MALAYSIA SPIRIT: Dawos (centre) poses with Siburan Hall committee members during his Gawai Dayak open house on Saturday.