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Govt allocates RM3 billion for Sungai Golok project

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FLOOD MITIGATION

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BANGKOK: Malaysia has allocated about RM3 billion for the Sungai Golok Estuary Improvement Project, a strategic cross-border initiative with Thailand to mitigate flood risks, safeguarding local communities and enhancing national security.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said the government had initiated comprehensive measures as part of the collaboration with Thailand.

Fadillah, who is also the energy transition and water transformation minister, said the total funding for the project was for the flood mitigation programme and a security wall under the National Security Council.

"We have informed the Thai government that Malaysia has approved a location for dredging work, while simultaneously undertaking improvements to Sungai Golok, including the construction of a river wall. This is not only a flood mitigation initiative, but also a security measure for our nation.

"This project will address flood mitigation comprehensively and, upon completion, is expected to significantly reduce flood incidents and the associated loss of property, assets and livelihoods, not only for the local population but also for businesses and government infrastructure," he said at the end of his four-day working visit to Thailand yesterday.

He said while parts of the project were awaiting final approval from the Thai authorities, the estimated timeline for completion was three years from the commencement date.

Fadillah said Tenaga Nasional Bhd and the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand had completed feasibility studies on a plan to upgrade their existing power interconnection facilities.

He said both countries acknowledged that the interconnection, commissioned in the early 2000s, was ageing and needed an upgrade.

During his working visit, Fadillah also expressed his appreciation to the Thai government for its warm hospitality.

During his four-day working visit to Thailand, Fadillah made courtesy calls on Deputy Prime Ministers Prasert Jantararungtong and Pirapan Salirathavibhaga. **Bernama**