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Drones activated to ease flood relief in Selangor

The Malaysian Reserve, Malaysia



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by AUFA MARDHIAH

OVER 20 units of drones were deployed to assist flood relief operations including monitoring works and delivery of critical supplies such as medicines, food and power banks in several areas in Selangor.

The effort was led by The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) through the Special Drone Services Emergency Task Force (PTK2Dron) under the observation of Technology Park Malaysia.

In Selangor, the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) drone is also equipped with night vision cameras and thermal sensors and has been deployed to Taman Sri Muda, Kampung Lombong, Lanchong, Kampung Lanchang Jaya, Taman Alam Indah, and Kampung Jalan Kebun. The operation was tested in Perak in October this year and proved to be effective in time and cost saving as an alternative to logistical methods such as using boats.

"Currently the use of drones is only implemented in Selangor subject to the needs from time to time. Despite that, PTK2Dron is also on standby to provide assistance in other states affected by the flood according to the suitability, demand and needs of local authorities," Mosti said in a statement recently.

The drone services were provided by local drone technology companies such as VStream Revolution Sdn Bhd, Meraque Services



Pic courtesy of Meraque Services

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Sdn Bhd, Alphaswift Industries Sdn Bhd, Aerodyne Group Sdn Bhd and GeoPrecision Tech Sdn Bhd. Meraque and Pharmaniaga Bhd have managed the delivery of medicines using drones in areas affected by the floods in Selangor.

"The PTK2Dron team works closely with various parties to mobilise immediate aid, as well as facilitate the process between drone operators and service providers with relevant authorities and ensure safety and technical standards are achieved," Mosti added.

The PTK2Dron efforts was enforced through initiative coordination by the National Technology

and Innovation Sandbox, launched by Mosti last year, which supports drone companies obtaining technical, regulatory and test site support, in addition to providing them with special use cases including disaster management and delivery of emergency supplies.

This initiative is also supported by Malaysia Civil Defence Force, Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Selangor, Shah Alam City Council, Malaysian Red Crescent Society and the Selangor State Disaster Management Unit with cooperation from the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia, and the Ministry of Transport Malaysia.



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SUMMARIES

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