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U E678 EMS
MAHATHIR-FLOODS
BK

ALOR SETAR, NOV 27 (BERHANYA) -- THE GOVERNMENT TODAY APPROVED \$200,000 AS EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN KEDAH.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WHO MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT HERE, SAID THE MONEY WOULD BE USED TO BUY FOODSTUFFS AND OTHER IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF THE FLOOD VICTIMS.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE KUBANG PASU DISTRICT OFFICER'S HOUSE AFTER VISITING FLOOD-HIT AREAS IN THE DISTRICT, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO ALLOCATE A SIMILAR AMOUNT TO KEDAH AS WAS GIVEN TO FLOODS VICTIMS IN KELANTAN WHICH HE VISITED EARLIER THIS WEEK.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID KEDAH WOULD ALSO GET AN ADDITIONAL \$15,000 OUT OF THE \$100,000 DONATED BY THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG TO THE NATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND THIS WEEK. --MORE
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KEDAH ALSO RECEIVED YET ANOTHER \$10,000 FROM THE MINISTERS' AND DEPUTY MINISTERS' WIVES WELFARE ORGANISATION (OKATI).

THE PRIME MINISTER'S WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITE HANMAH HANDED OVER A CHEQUE FOR THE AMOUNT TO MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI OSMAN ARDIF AT THE KUBANG PASU FLOOD OPERATIONS ROOM THIS MORNING.

ON OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FIRST HAVE TO REVIEW THE MATTER BECAUSE LOSSES TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT RESULTING FROM THE FLOODS WERE EXPECTED TO RUN INTO MILLIONS OF RINGGIT.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO GIVE ASSISTANCE IS ALSO NOT UNLIMITED,+ HE ADDED.

WHEN ASKED WHY THE SAME AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE WAS GIVEN TO KEDAH AND KELANTAN WHEN THE DIFFICULTIES AND LOSSES SUFFERED BY PEOPLE OF ONE STATE COULD BE MORE THAN THE OTHER, HE REPLIED: +WHAT TO DO, WE ARE FATED TO HAVE THE FLOODS...IF WE THINK OF DIFFICULTIES (DUE TO THE FLOODS), EVERYONE IS AFFECTED+.--MORE
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MAHATHIR-FLOODS 3 ALOR SETAR

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI HAJI OSMAN AND THEIR WIVES, SPENT ABOUT THREE HOURS VISITING THE FLOODED AREAS IN THE KUBANG PASU DISTRICT.

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO ARRIVED HERE ABOARD A HURI HELICOPTER AT 10AM WAS GIVEN A 30-MINUTE BRIEFING ON THE FLOOD SITUATION BY DISTRICT OFFICER HAJI ISMAIL DATUK SHAFIE.

DURING THE VISIT FROM 10.30AM TO 1.30PM, THE PRIME MINISTER CHATTED WITH THE FLOOD VICTIMS AND HANDED OVER FOOD PARCELS TO THEM AT VARIOUS FLOOD EVACUATION CENTRES IN THE DISTRICT.

THE FLOOD SITUATION IN MOST AREAS IN THE DISTRICT HOWEVER WAS REPORTED TO BE EASING OFF TODAY.--MORE
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MAHATHIR-FLOODS 4 ALOR SETAR

AMONG THE EVACUATION CENTRES HE VISITED WERE TOK JALAI NATIONAL SCHOOL, THE FARMERS ORGANISATION AUTHORITY OFFICE AT LUBUK SATU, KAMPUNG PASIR (MUKIM NAGA), TUNJANG NATIONAL SCHOOL, KAMPUNG TANJUNG MOSQUE, MILE 29 NATIONAL SCHOOL AND KODIANG NATIONAL SCHOOL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LATER CONTINUED HIS VISIT TO KUALA MUDA DISTRICT BY HELICOPTER AT 2PM AFTER LUNCH AT THE DISTRICT OFFICER'S HOUSE.

IN A SEPARATE PROGRAMME, DATUK SERI DATIM PAUWA OR SITI HASKAH PROCEEDED TO PERLIS TO VISIT FLOOD VICTIMS IN THE STATE.

THE PRIME MINISTER MADE AN AERIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE FLOOD SITUATION IN THE KOTA SETAR AND KOTA KUALA MUDA AREAS WHICH WERE STILL BADLY AFFECTED BY FLOODS.

HE PRESENTED PARCELS OF CLOTHINGS TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FLOOD VICTIMS IN THE VARIOUS VILLAGES AT THE EVACUATION CENTRE AT KOTA KUALA MUDA NATIONAL SCHOOL.--MORE

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MAHATHIR-FLOODS 5 ALOR SETAR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO TOURED THE FLOOD ASSESSING POINTS AT THE MUDA DAM AND THE PEDU DAM FROM THE AIR.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT HERE AT 3PM, THE PRIME MINISTER AGAIN CONTINUED HIS VISIT BY A +TROOPER+ VEHICLE TO THE KOTA SETAR DISTRICT BY FIRSTLY INSPECTING HIS OWN HOUSE AT TITI GAJAH.

THE WATER LEVEL AT THE PLACE WHICH WAS AT 0.2 METRE YESTERDAY, HAD SUBSIDED COMPLETELY BY THE TIME HE ARRIVED THERE.

HE VISITED FLOOD VICTIMS STILL TAKING SHELTER AT THE ALOR JUNGGUS NATIONAL SCHOOL AND OTHER RELIEF CENTRES IN THE DISTRICT.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED DURING THE TOUR BY SEVERAL STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.--BERNAMA

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