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MAHATHIR-MUAR
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MUAR, DEC 2 (BERNAMA) -- THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE 44.6 MILLION FOR SEVERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN PARTICULAR FLOOD ALLEVIATION PROJECTS IN JOHOR'S MUAR DISTRICT.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MUHAMAD SAID TODAY OF THE SUM, 43.7 MILLION WAS TO IMPROVE MUAR'S DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A BRIEFING BY MUAR DISTRICT OFFICER DATUK HASHIM YANHA HERE. ALSO PRESENT WERE JOHOR MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MURYIDDIN YASSIN AND INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT.

MUAR IS THE FIRST STOP IN THE PREMIER'S TOUR OF DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTRY TO FIND OUT PROBLEMS IN THE WAY OF DEVELOPMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID \$2 MILLION WOULD BE SPENT ON UPGRADING THE 16.3KM MUAR-JENENTAH ROAD AND ANOTHER \$605,000 ON IMPROVING THE MUAR-LABIS ROAD WHICH WAS USUALLY AFFECTED BY FLOODS.

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THE PREMIER SAID HE WAS TOLD DURING THE BRIEFING THAT FLOODS WERE AN ANNUAL PROBLEM IN THE MUAR DISTRICT.

SOMETHING OUGHT TO BE DONE TO REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF THE FLOODS IF NOT TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM FULLY, HE SAID.

MEANWHILE DATUK MOHAMED ANNOUNCED AN IMMEDIATE ALLOCATION OF \$225,000 TO HELP FLOOD VICTIMS IN JOHOR. OF THE AMOUNT \$200,000 WAS FROM THE NATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND, \$13,000 FROM THE ISKANDAR FOUNDATION FUND AND THE REMAINING \$10,000 FROM BAKTI.

ADDITIONAL FUNDS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECEIVED REPORTS FROM THE VARIOUS STATES OF THE LOSSES THAT THEY HAD INCURRED IN DUE TO THE FLOODS.

ON FLOODS IN KEDAH, PERLIS AND KELANTAN, HE SAID THIS WAS DUE TO WATERS FLOWING IN FROM SOUTH THAILAND. -- BERNAMA

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