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River-Study

PAHANG TO DISCUSS RIVERINE VILLAGERS PROBLEM NEXT WEEK

KUANTAN, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- The Pahang Government will discuss problems faced by people living in riverine and Orang Asli settlements in the state next week, State Rural Development and Rural Growth Centre Committee chairman Datuk Omar Othman said today.

He said the state government viewed seriously the problems faced by the rural folks who are exposed to dangers if the rivers overflowed the banks.

A report on the situation in 10 Orang Asli settlements prone to soil erosion is also expected to be tabled in the committee's meeting next week, he told Bernama when commenting on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call on Saturday to state governments to ban the construction of buildings along river banks and resettle the residents to safer areas.

He said the state government was giving serious attention to the Prime Minister's call as many families were living along the river banks of Sungai Pahang from Lipis to Pekan.

He said there were about 500 families at Kampung Bukit Betong, Kampung Telang and Kampung Kuala Kechau in Lipis district which were prone to floods due to their proximity to Sungai Pahang.

Of the 10 Orang Asli settlements, six are located along river banks. They are Kampung Buntu in Raub, Pos Terisu (Cameron Highlands), Kampung Ulu Jempul (Maran), Kampung Sungai Tekal (Jerantut), Kampung Tual and Kampung Harung (Lipis).

Four more settlements -- Kampung Sungai Ruil, Kampung Bharat, Kampung Jarik and Kampung Terisu -- are in Cameron Highlands. A total of 1,212 Orang Asli families are living in the 10 villages.

Omar said part of the RM130 million allocated for Orang Asli development programmes under the Seventh Malaysia Plan would be used to resettle them to safer areas. -- BERNAMA

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