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RM49m allocated to check spread of JE

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THE Government has allocated RM49 million for various measures to ensure that the Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease does not spread, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said these measures include vaccination of pigs and humans, guarding against pigs roaming outside their designated areas, destroying them, and fogging high-risk areas.

"Those who have lost their income because of the JE disease, we cannot compensate according to their losses but we can ensure that they get the necessary assistance," Dr Mahathir said at a press conference after the Umno Supreme Council meeting in Kuala Lumpur last night.

He said the Government has formed a JE task force headed by Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Ming. Its members include Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh, and several deputy ministers from related ministries. Meanwhile, four more people from pig-farming areas in Port Dickson died of suspected JE this week, bringing the death toll in the state since January 4 to 32. There are 40 people from the state warded with suspected JE, at hospitals in Port Dickson and Kuala Lumpur.

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