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Mahathir-Fire-fighter

FIRE-FIGHTING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN EVERY DISTRICT

JITRA, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today there is a need for fire-fighting volunteers in every district so that fires can be brought under control speedily.

Volunteer fire fighters mostly in the small towns could reach the scene of a fire more speedily as they were close by compared with the regular personnel from the Fire and Rescue Department.

The Government very highly valued the services rendered by volunteer fire fighters, he said when handing over aid to rebuild a row of nine shophouses damaged in a fire at Kodiang on Oct 13.

The MCA and MIC Kubang Pasu handed over a total of RM28,000 to the Prime Minister who then presented the money to the Fire Victims Committee members.

In the fire at about 8am on that day, fire fighting volunteers from Kodiang as well as Air Hitam and Megat Dewa helped Fire and Rescue Department personnel to bring the blaze under control.

Dr Mahathir said the fire prevention effort should include erecting buildings using fire resistant materials and also there had to be a high level of vigilance.

The Prime Minister then called on an old friend who lived in Kodiang near the shophouses damaged by the fire and later inspected the Barisan Nasional Election Operations Room at Kota Siputeh.

He spent sometime talking to his friend Mustafa Ahmad, 65, the former Alliance Assemblyman who represented Tunjang, from 1959 hingga 1969.

Before leaving for Kuala Lumpur, Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali accompanied by Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid visited the Lye Huat Stone and Art Gallery at the Mukim of Hosba.

The Gallery owned by businessman Lim Lye Huat, 45, houses paintings, stones and rocks collected from rivers and water falls, mountains and lakes. Also on display are plants of various species.

The bamboo and wooden gallery covers 1.8 hectares.

Walking from Kodiang to the gallery, the Prime Minister stopped briefly at the BN Operations Room at Napoh.

-- BERNAMA

MAN AAM