

14 JAN 1999

Mahathir-briefing

MAHATHIR BRIEFED ON KELANTAN FLOODS

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is on a one-day visit to Kelantan today, was briefed on the recent floods which hit the state.

State Secretary Datuk Wan Hashim Wan Daud gave the briefing at a closed door session at the Kota Darul Naim operations room here.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Hajjah Zaleha Ismail, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Ibrahim Ali, state executive councillors and Barisan Nasional state assemblymen were present.

When approached by reporters after the 45-minute session, Wan Hashim said that during the briefing the state government applied for RM800 million in federal assistance for flood mitigation and to check coastal erosion.

Of the amount applied for, the state government proposed to spend RM700 million, among other things, on deepening the Kelantan River estuary and river bed, he said.

It proposed to spend another RM100 million to check erosion of the Sabak and Cahaya Bulan beaches in Kota Baharu, the Seri Tujuh beach in Tumpat and the Tok Bali beach in Pasir Puteh.

"The allocation asked for is crucial in financing efforts to protect the coastline of key tourist destinations in the state from further erosion," he said.

Wan Hashim said he also briefed the prime minister on the state's long-term measures to deal with future floods with a view to minimising property damage and loss of lives.

-- BERNAMA

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