

08 JAN 2002

Mahathir-Victims

PM AND WIFE VISIT GUNUNG PULAI MUD-FLOODS VICTIMS

KULAI, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today inspected the trail of destruction wreaked by last month's mud-floods in Kampung Seri Gunung Pulai at the foot of Gunung Pulai here.

Five people perished in the Dec 27 incident.

He was accompanied by wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, who is the MP for Pontian and Deputy Works Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah also visited 10 of the mud-flood victims now being billeted at a house there owned by Johor Baharu Tengah district council president Dollah Jaafar.

At a brief reception there, the prime minister handed over a personal contribution of RM5,000 to them.

They are Rahmat Wahid, 40, Razak Mohktar, 44, Mohamed Wahid Abdul Kassim, Ahad Jamat, 45, Jamian Kasrin, 46, Rohaya Kassim, 42, Sudin Kassim, 35, Mohamed Zazali Sukimin, 30, Kataman Sam, 36, and Nor Hadi Aman, 51.

Rahmat's wife Salina Abas, 34 and their three children Nordiana, six, Md Ali, three and Noren, one, were swept away and perished in the incident.

The mudflows, which swept across the settlement as the residents were fast asleep, also claimed the life of Rahmat's elderly neighbour, a 64 year-old woman Fatimah Shardan.

Fourteen of the residents cheated death by hanging on to floating tree trunks and logs while three others were slightly injured.

Four homes, two cars and a lorry were also damaged.

Earlier upon arrival, the prime minister and Dr Siti Hasmah were driven up the peak of Gunung Pulai in four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Later at a nearby hotel, the prime minister was briefed on the situation in recently flood-hit areas in Johor by the State Secretary Datuk Ayub Mion.

-- BERNAMA

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