

PAS admits Kelantan ill prepared for floods

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PAS has admitted that the Kelantan government was inadequately prepared in facing the recent massive flood although the state experienced floods each year.

Its secretary-general Mustafa Ali said there were still weaknesses in preparing for floods, especially the extraordinary one that hit the state recently.

"We admit we were inadequately prepared but we could handle the previous flood situations which were normal. This time, it was extraordinary and with limited resources, we were short on preparations," he said after launching the party's Post-Flood Rehabilitation Fund, in Kelantan yesterday.

Mustafa (left) said he was made to understand that the massive flood was caused by extraordinarily heavy, incessant rain over four days, with the amount of rainfall equivalent to normal rainfall over 64 days.

However, he said, there was greater awareness of late and the state government had discussed with the federal government to fine-tune the SOP (standard operating procedure) in facing extraordinary floods in future.

Meanwhile, a special committee has been formed to manage the Post-Flood Rehabilitation Special Fund, set up to collect contributions from domestic and foreign sources.

The funds will be used to assist flood victims in the affected states, particularly Kelantan.

"We will collect as much as we can to assist the flood victims, especially in the worst hit districts in Kelantan, namely Tanah Merah, Kuala Krai and Gua Musang which are experiencing total loss; livelihoods and property all gone," Mustafa said.

He said a major dinner function would be held to collect funds to be channelled to the flood victims.

- Bernama

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