

Gov't told to explain use of RM462mil flood relief funds

MalaysiaKini.com

Mar 17, 2015

By Ram Anand

The government must explain how RM462 million of the RM800 million allocation for relief work for the devastating floods that hit the peninsula late last year was used, the DAP demanded today.

The party said this when pointing out that only RM338 million of total allocation the federal government announced has been accounted for.

DAP national organising secretary Anthony Loke said today that no specific programme was listed to account for the remaining RM462 million of the allocation in a parliamentary written answer from Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Shahidan Kassim to him recently.

"They have to be accountable. Has the allocated money reached the flood victims?" Loke, the MP for Seremban, asked during a press conference at the Parliament lobby.

He also accused Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak of "flip-flopping" on the justification behind the government's decision not to declare an emergency during the floods.

"Last December, Najib said the reason was so that the people could claim insurance. Yesterday, he told Parliament that the reason was because the federal government wanted the state governments as well to put in efforts to solve the flood problems," he said.

"Najib is just proving that he is a flip-flop PM with his statements," Loke said.

Loke also questioned whether this allows Najib to use the remaining money with "discretionary powers" without having to list down specific programmes.

"Also, there were plenty of individuals and corporations which donated money to help the flood victims. So the government did not only have the RM800 million to spend, but also the money that was donated to the National Security Council," he said.

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