

Gov't willing to help Kelantan flood victims, says Najib
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The federal government is willing to make changes to its policy to assist the people in Kelantan who had been in a bad plight following the floods there in 2014, said Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

The prime minister said although Kelantan was governed by the opposition, the federal government was prepared to build permanent houses costing RM65,000 each for flood victims who lost their homes in the aftermath.

Speaking at the handing over of house keys to the victims at Tapak Maju Ternak, Kampung Staponal, Batu Jong in Kuala Krai today, Najib noted that land for such housing was an issue; in this regard, the government would acquire land from individuals and the private sector.

Also present at the function were International Trade and Industry Minister Mustapa Mohamed, who is also Kelantan BN chief, Works Minister Fadillah Yusof, Rural and Regional Development Deputy Minister Ahmad Jazlan Yaakub and Kuala Krai UMNO division chief Ramzi Abdul Rahman.

The federal government was entrusted to build 1,804 houses, of which 844 had been completed while 243 are still under construction.

The prime minister said the government was giving its full commitment to complete the remaining units before the end of the year.

"The delay in completing the permanent houses for the flood victims is due to problems in getting land for the site forcing the government to acquire from individual and private landowners," he said.

Najib said allegations by certain quarters that the BN government treated Kelantan like a stepchild was false as various kinds of assistance had been channeled to the state.

Thirty-one families received their house keys at the presentation today.

Meanwhile, Mazuin Mohd Zin, 31, said she and her husband, and their four children had been waiting to move into a new home for a long time since the floods in 2014.

"Thanks to the prime minister for presenting the house keys to us today. We are very happy that we finally get our wish," she said.

Rokiah Yaakob, 63, also expressed her gratitude to the prime minister and other parties for all the aid rendered to her family.

"We had been living in a camp and later in a container but I am so happy to finally get a permanent house," she said.

- *Bernama*

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