

PM: Cut red tape, speed up distribution

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BATU PAHAT: Cut the red tape and speed up the distribution of financial aid to flood victims.

This is the message from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Badawi to state governments and government agencies.

Abdullah said this after visiting four of the 36 relief centres in Parit Sulong, which is among one of the worst flood ravaged areas in the district.

He was commenting on complaints by some victims who had yet to receive any financial assistance.

The government had promised the first wave of flood victims who had registered with the Welfare Department RM200 per family and if they had also



been hit in the second wave of floods, they will receive an additional RM200.

An additional RM500 will be given to each family after the flood subsided

and they had returned home.

Abdullah visited the multi-purpose hall in Sungai Simpang Kiri, SMK Penghulu Saad in Parit Raja Ahmad and SM Agama Parit Sulong and SMK Dato Sulaiman in Parit Sulong.

Speaking after visiting the victims, Abdullah said the flood situation in Johor and Pahang was discussed at yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

"All victims will be helped fairly and distribution of financial aid must be done as fast as possible," he said.

"To achieve this, there must be proper co-ordination between all parties involved."

He called on the victims to register as quickly as possible with relief centres.

Those who did not move to the relief centres are also eligible for the financial aid.