

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	28 JAN 2015

Hope floats for flood victims

The Star - 28/1/2015

PM to launch designs of replacement houses in Kelantan

By **RAZAK AHMAD**
razak@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: People whose homes were destroyed during the floods will have something to look forward to when the Prime Minister visits Kelantan tomorrow.

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will be in Manek Urai to launch the models of the houses that will be built to replace those that were totally damaged or swept away.

Kelantan flood disaster special committee chairman Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, who announced this, said about 2,500 new houses would be built.

"In Kelantan, we are working with the state government to find suitable locations to build the houses, including those for landless victims.

"There were some who were squatters on land by the riverbanks but we will need the Kelantan government's continued cooperation to help them," he said.

The International Trade and Industry Minister said this on the sidelines of a media briefing on the Asean Economic Community here yesterday.

On Jan 20, the Government agreed on two models of the replacement houses that cost RM48,000 per unit.

Each of the 61sq m three-bedroom houses will take a maximum of 75 days to build.

A total of 2,606 families in the peninsula lost their houses with 2,374 of them from Kelantan.

Mustapa said the focus of the flood recovery efforts was now on building new homes for the victims.

"So far we have placed 999 families in temporary tents while others are in temporary housing and at evacuation centres," said Mustapa.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that the situation in Kelantan has returned to normal with all the victims being allowed to return home beginning last night and all the evacuation centres in the state have been closed.

A spokesman for the Social Welfare Department in Kelantan said the 255 victims from 62 families in Kuala Krai were now in temporary shelters such as tents and houses in their villages.

In Sarawak, however, the situation deteriorated when the number of victims increased.

A National Security Council spokesman said the number of

flood victims who were evacuated to six relief centres in the state yesterday morning rose to 1,153 from 368 families compared with 940 victims from 148 families the night before.

He said the victims staying at the relief centre in Bintulu (Bintulu Indoor Stadium) rose to 744 people involving 245 families.

The situation was unchanged at the other relief centres, namely Samarahan (54 victims), Mukah (66), and Limbang (351).

In Sabah, a spokesman of the Beaufort flood operations room said the number of evacuees had dropped to 21 from six families compared to 47 from 10 families by yesterday afternoon.

The evacuees were being housed at the Membakut new hall, he said.