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PM: Review way we tackle floods

NEW S.O.P.: Vital to identify causes of devastation for remedial measures

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ALL standard operating procedures related to flood management will be reviewed, Datuk Seri Najib Razak said in his blog www.najibrazak.com yesterday.

In a two-minute sound bite uploaded on the blog, the prime minister said the SOP would be reviewed to take into account the possibility of catastrophic floods happening again and its aftermath.

"Floods happen in our country due to the monsoon season, but this year the floods occurred on a much more devastating scale than we could have imagined.

"It is important for us to identify the causes that led to this," he said in his message.

Najib said the government was taking the necessary measures to help all flood victims get back on their feet and resume their lives.

"We are committed to providing a larger allocation in the fifth Malaysia Plan to implement mitigation projects that will help curb the occurrence of floods."

In **Putrajaya** Najib said the government applauded the spirit of volunteerism among university students in helping the flood victims.

He said his administration commended the students for the time and energy given to assist flood victims after thousands had been dis-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak presenting a Malaysia Development Bhd letter of offer to perform haj this year to Muhammad Qutub Amran, who is Imam II of Surau Al-Manar in Presint 14, Putrajaya. Pic by Ahmad Irfan Mohd Noor

placed. What they had done, he said, was noble and the country thanked them for it.

"Your sacrifice will allow flood victims to regain some normalcy in their life as soon as possible. The victims will certainly remember and appreciate what you have done," Najib said after presenting a Malaysia Development Bhd (IMDB) letter of offer to perform haj this year to the

first recipient, Muhammad Qutub Amran, who is Imam II of Surau Al-Manar in Presint 14.

The 24-year-old was caught by surprise when Najib presented him with the offer letter. The look of disbelief on the young imam's face said it all.

Also present were Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor and Surau

Al-Manar committee members.

"I was speechless," Qutub said when asked to comment on the offer letter.

He said it was the best graduation gift after he had completed his studies in syariah last November at Universiti Malaya and could not wait to share the good news with his 63-year-old mother, Che Esah Ngah, who is a single mother

and a housewife.

"I never thought that I could perform the haj this year at such a young age and I have not even performed the umrah.

"I don't know what to say as I am still in shock but at the same time humbled by what has been given and for that I am grateful," said Qutub, who began his imam duties at the surau last April.