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> Government to announce policy next week: Najib

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KUALA LUMPUR; The government will introduce a policy which will assist flood victims and businessmen affected by disasters, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

He said this policy will be part of an announcement he will make regarding the government's plans for this year.

Najib was speaking at the launch of the Menara

Kembar Bank Rakyat here yesterday.

During the launch, Najib shared his experiences during his visits to flood affected areas.

"I have seen it with my own eyes, no businesses were carried out for days in areas like Kuala Krai and Gua Musang," he said.

Owners of convenience, books and textile stores could not carry out their businesses as their goods were destroyed in the floods, he said.

Najib, who is also finance minister, said Bank Rakyat has introduced a Peribadi-i personal loan scheme, which will assist flood victims in

Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Perak and Johor.

Flood victims can apply for the loan between Jan 19 and Feb 19.

Also present at the event were Domestic Trade, Cooperative and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Hasan Malek and Bank Rakyat chairman Datuk Mat Noor Nawi

Najib also said the 300m stretch of Jalan Travers fronting the bank's new headquarters will be known as Jalan Rakyat.

It starts from the Jalan Tun Sambanthan intersection to the intersection of Jalan Bangsar and Jalan Travers.