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## Najib visits Nenasi beach plagued by erosion

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**PEKAN:** The problem of erosion at the Nenasi beach, near here drew the attention of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak who visited the area to look at the situation.

Najib, who is also the Member of Parliament for Pekan, spent about 20 minutes observing the situation and was briefed by State Director of the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID), Datuk Shaharuddin Ibrahim on the measures to resolve the problem.

When approached by reporters, Shaharuddin said the Prime Minister had asked for the immediate construction of a "groyne" to prevent the erosion with an allocation of RM5mil approved by the Government.

"Actually, the area of economic activity affected by the coastal erosion stretches for 2km in Nenasi and it would cost RM25mil to prevent the erosion. But the Prime Minister had asked the department to implement the project for which allocation had already been provided and would consider the (other) allocation in future.

"With the RM5mil allocation, we will tackle the erosion problem on a 600m stretch first which involves the residential area up to the SJKC Kee Wha," he said.

Shaharuddin said, however, that before the project was implemented, he would carry out an overall study.

The project will begin in August next year and is expected to take 10 months to complete.

Earlier, Najib handed over a personal contribution to Mohd Rasid Mohd Daud, who lost two daughters and a son after they drowned while fishing in a swollen ditch near their house in Kampung Permatang Jerek, Merchong near here early this month.

He expressed his sympathies to Mohd Rasid, 49, who is still grief-stricken over the tragedy. The bodies of Nor Aleeza Marliyana, 12, Mohamad Firdaus, 11, and Nor Alia Mardiana, seven, were found about 300m from their house.

Mohd Rasid and his wife Mardiah Zakaria are left with only one child, Suraya, three.

Najib also visited Bidah Hamid, 78, who has been paralysed since a surgery five years ago, at an old folks home in Kampung Sepauk, Nenasi Darat near here.

"I do not know what to say. I am touched that the prime minister is willing to visit me," said Bidah, who also received a personal contribution from Najib. — Bernama