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FLOOD VICTIMS TOUCHED BY PM'S VISIT

'Jom Bantu Rakyat' programme gives their homes a new look, new furniture

T.N. ALAGESH
TEMERLOH
news@nst.com.my

HASMAH Ibrahim was excited yesterday as volunteers repaired her flood-damaged home in Kampung Tenggoh here.

On top of that, the 74-year-old was expecting a very important couple to check on the work.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, took time off from their schedule during their one-day visit here to drop by her place at 2pm.

Dressed in a floral baju kurung and maroon scarf, Hasmah was monitoring the repairs and refurbishment, carried out by fire-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor speaking to Hasmah Ibrahim at her home in Kampung Tenggoh yesterday. They were accompanied by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob (fourth from left) and Temerloh Umno division chairman Datuk Seri Sharkar Shamsudin (third from left). PIC BY MOHD YUSNI ARIFFIN

men, soldiers and civil defence members.

When she was informed that Najib and his entourage were about to arrive, the mother of three rushed to the house door and waited to welcome the guests, before ushering them in-

to the living room.

Hasmah posed with Najib and Rosmah for a picture at the balcony, and she said she would treasure the photo.

"I was informed by the village headman on Monday that the prime minister would visit my

house as I am one of the participants in the *Jom Bantu Rakyat* programme.

"He wanted to see the progress and despite being busy, he had time to visit my family.

"The prime minister asked me about the repair work and I am touched by his concern.

"Work has been progressing smoothly and it will be completed by the end of this week. I am looking forward to the new look of my house."

She said the floods in 2014 had damaged her house and another round last year had made conditions worse.

Hasmah, who lives with her children, said the floods had damaged several sections of her house, which left the unit in a dilapidated condition.

"The floodwaters were about 5m-high, causing the wooden floor to rot, damaging electrical items and ruining the furniture.

"Now, under the programme, I received new furniture, including a dining table set and curtains," she said.

Najib later visited the home of Abdul Ghani Abdul Rahman in Kampung Baru Padang Kerbau, whose single-storey house was also damaged in the floods.

The 59-year-old retiree expressed gratitude to Najib for the visit, saying the prime minister's presence showed that he wanted to see for himself the progress of the programme, courtesy of the government.

"My house was damaged in 2014, but was spared during the floods last year.

"Being chosen as a participant has allowed me to live in a more conducive environment," he said, adding that he was living with seven family members.

Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob and Temerloh Umno division chairman Datuk Seri Sharkar Shamsudin.

The *Jom Bantu Rakyat* programme is a government initiative to repair the homes of those from the low-income group by providing new coats of paint, replacing damaged furniture, and repairing doors and roofs.

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