

PM URGES STORM VICTIMS TO BE PATIENT

Govt will provide relief to ease their plight, says Dr M

M. HIFZUDDIN IKHSAN
AND HAMZAH OSMAN
LANGKAWI
news@nst.com.my

PEOPLE affected by storms brought on by the tail end of Typhoon Lekima have been urged to be patient, as the government is doing its best to channel aid to them, said Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Malaysians were lucky as the country's location between the Philippines and Indonesia had shielded it from the vagaries of cyclones from the Indian Ocean, as well as typhoons from the Pacific.

He said Malaysia also did not have any volcanoes and was not prone to earthquakes.

"We are lucky for not being located in the middle of an ocean and are shielded from fierce winds from the Indian Ocean, which have to pass through Sumatra before reaching here.

"We are also shielded from typhoons from the Pacific Ocean, which regularly strike the Philippines, leading to loss of lives and property," he said.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at an event with residents here in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilad-



Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, attending a Hari Raya Aidiladha event with residents at Masjid Ar Rahman in Kedawang, Langkawi, yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

ha at Masjid Ar Rahman in Kedawang.

On Friday, thunderstorms and winds reaching up to 100kph generated by the tail end of Typhoon Lekima had struck Perlis, Kedah and Penang, damaging more than 3,000 homes.

Dr Mahathir said the government would try to provide relief to the victims to ease their plight, even though it might not be

enough to cover their losses.

"While this is not enough, we should, nevertheless, be thankful to the government for the help, unlike in some countries where disaster victims are left on their own.

"I am reminded of Nepal, which had been struck by an earthquake, destroying the country and which, in turn, saw many Nepalese losing their homes.

"And maybe because their government couldn't afford it, the country is still in a state of shock after the earthquake."

Dr Mahathir said in Malaysia, the people would get aid from the government whenever disasters strike, irrespective of whether they were small or big.

"As such, the people should be thankful and not eschew the aid that they receive," he said.