

PM VISIT BRINGS CHEER TO FLOOD VICTIMS

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Muhyiddin meets with evacuees at relief centres in Terengganu, Kelantan

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PRIME Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday visited flood-stricken areas in Terengganu and Kelantan and met with more than 600 evacuees seeking shelter at flood relief centres.

He spent about an hour at the SK Bukit Mentok temporary evacuation centre here, which housed 613 evacuees, and was briefed on the flood situation before mingling with those at the centre and handing them food baskets.

While some evacuees brought out their handphones to take pictures and others tried to get close to greet the prime minister, they were constantly advised to practise physical distancing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Muhyiddin's first working visit to Terengganu since taking office in March also saw residents from nearby villages that were not affected by the floods gathering at the relief centre.

Shafie Mohamad, 65, and his wife Zalikur Omar, 63, appeared thrilled when Muhyiddin visited the evacuees resting inside the orange partition tents provided by the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma).

Zalikur from Kampung Tanjung, Bukit Mentok, said the

prime minister's visit brought some cheer to the flood victims who had been occupying the relief centre since Dec 19.

"The evacuees are happy that the prime minister has made the effort to visit the relief centre and check on our condition here."

For 77-year-old Muda Awang, although he was not affected by the floods, he came with several villagers to the school-cum-relief centre hoping to meet the prime minister.

"We usually see him on the television. This time around I get to see him in person. Welcome to Kemaman!" said the villager from Kampung Pengkalan Pandan.

Muhyiddin was briefed on the flood situation by Terengganu State Secretary Datuk Mohd Zahari Md Azahar and Kemaman district officer Mohd Sophian Abu Bakar.

Zahari said the fourth wave of floods in Kemaman had recorded the highest number of victims due to "extremely heavy rainfall".

Terengganu State Welfare, Women's Development, Family and National Unity Committee chairman Hanafiah Mat said the prime minister approved an immediate RM4.5 million allocation for flood-mitigation measures to build four culverts.

The project is expected to begin in June next year, which will address the flood issues faced by the Tanjung Kalong Rumah Mampu Milik project residents.

Earlier in the morning, Muhyiddin had met with 154 flood victims in Kelantan at the Sekolah Kebangsaan Gual Tinggi relief centre in Pasir Mas.

The flood evacuees, from 61 families, were relocated to the centre in stages since Kelantan was hit by a second wave of floods last week.

Muhyiddin, accompanied by



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin meeting flood victims at the relief centre in SK Bukit Mentok, Kemaman yesterday. With him is Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar (right). BERNAMA PIX

Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob and his deputy Datuk Mohd Amar Nik Abdullah, spent about one hour meeting the flood victims, including 61 children.

Flood victim Norma Mohd Yatim, 62, said that when her house was flooded, she was unable to save her belongings except for some important documents which she brought with her.

"The food packages are badly needed especially when we return home after the water recedes," said Norma, who is from Kampung Bagus here.



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin taking a picture with his smartphone while surveying the flood situation in a Royal Malaysia Police helicopter in Rantau Panjang yesterday.