

# PM admits weaknesses in handling of floods

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➤ Ismail Sabri says improving disaster management is a joint responsibility

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**JELEBU:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob did not deny weaknesses in flood management, especially in Selangor, but gave an assurance that they would be improved from time to time.

He said the responsibility of managing flood disasters was not that of the federal government alone, as state governments and relevant authorities at the district level also play an important role.

"I don't deny (the weakness) and will improve in the future ... The responsibility is

not that of the federal government alone, but also state governments, and the frontliners are the districts.

"The National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) only coordinates ... if it is considered a weakness in coordination, I do not defend anyone in this situation, for me everyone must be held accountable," he told reporters after visiting the flood victims at Dewan Besar D'Sury here yesterday.

Ismail Sabri said during a meeting with mentris besar yesterday morning, it was found that the preparedness to face floods in states such as Terengganu, Kelantan and Pahang was in order as the floods, especially, during this time of the year, is a normal phenomenon.

However, he said the floods that occurred in Selangor were unexpected.

"In Selangor, there is a problem ... we are

transparent about this and I do not want to cover anyone. In other states, (such as) in the east coast, floods have become like an annual event, so all the preparations have been made, just waiting to open the PPS (relief centres), which have been identified and already there.

"Every year, the flood evacuees will move to the same place," he added.

He said there are rules for opening a disaster operations centre and standard operating procedures that have to be followed, whereby an operations room is required to be opened when a house is affected.

He said in Selangor, it was not one house, but all were affected by the floods, especially in the Petaling and Shah Alam districts.

"I don't blame the netizens for making complaints, I'm thankful (to them) for continuing to complain to me," he said.

- Bernama