

PM cheers up spirit of evacuees at relief centres in Kota Tinggi

KOTA TINGGI: Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin brought some much-needed cheer to flood victims when he visited two temporary relief centres here, one of the worst flood-hit areas in Johor, yesterday.

Muhyiddin arrived at the first relief centre in Kolej Vokasional Kota Tinggi at noon.

He was accompanied by Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Hasni Mohammad and Kota Tinggi member of parliament Datuk Halimah Mohamed Sadique, who is also national unity minister.

Upon arrival, Muhyiddin was briefed on the flood situation by district officer Farizal Ismail.

He then visited the victims who were taking shelter at the college's hall and distributed aid in the form of food boxes. Up to noon yesterday, 126 people from 28 families had been placed at the relief centre.

Fazila Hamdan, 29, who was at

the centre with her husband, Shahabuddin Sakiman, 34, and their three children, said she was grateful to the prime minister for his concern.

"He advised us to be patient. He also asked how we were doing, and coping," said Fazila, who is six months pregnant.

After spending almost an hour at the college, Muhyiddin then went to another relief centre at SK Laksamana.

His visit to the relief centre generated palpable excitement among the flood evacuees.

Mohd Azizie Kassim, 45, whose family of four had been staying at the relief centre since Saturday, said he was glad to be able to speak to the prime minister.

"It was exciting. We usually see him only on the television.

"The prime minister told us not to lose hope and to be strong. His advice was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin delivering aid to flood victims at the Kolej Vokasional Kota Tinggi temporary relief centre in Kota Tinggi yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

“I’m proud that as a Johorean himself, he was able to come down here to check on us despite the Covid-19 pandemic,” said the assistant medical officer, who is based at the health office here.

Azizie, who hails from Taman Aman, was evacuated with his wife Suhaila Abd Karim, 44, and two sons, who are in their 20s.

His other son, 19, has cerebral palsy and lives with relatives in Taman Kota Kechil near here.

Another flood victim, K. Madhavi, 73, said Muhyiddin’s visit provided some cheer to her day.

“He asked about my health,

how many of my family members were affected and whether I had received the necessary aid from the Welfare Department.

“His concern helped take my mind off my worries over my house in Taman Aman, which has been inundated by floods,” said Madhavi, who lives alone.

The prime minister spent about half an hour at the school before returning to Putrajaya.

Kota Tinggi was one of the worst-affected districts by flooding in Johor, with 2,707 victims from 682 families taking shelter at 23 relief centres yesterday.