

# PM: Govt seeking long-term solutions to floods

**TEMERLOH:** The government is focusing on seeking comprehensive long-term solutions to flooding to reduce risks and the number of affected locations in future, says Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

The Prime Minister said this would be the main agenda of the National Disaster Management Committee once post-flood operations were completed, and it would involve state governments, government ministries and agencies, as well as experts in related fields.

"We will seek and discuss whatever modules that are suitable to

resolve this problem, and if it cannot be implemented simultaneously throughout the country, focus will be given to districts or areas at high risk of flooding.

"A long-term plan involves huge costs but it helps to reduce the costs incurred by the government each time it floods.

"So far, we have spent RM1.4bil on aid alone, and this amount is expected to increase because we have not yet received the full report on damages," he said after presenting aid under the Keluarga Malaysia Flood Relief Mission here yesterday.

The aid consisted of compassionate aid worth RM1,000 from the Federal Government and RM500 from the Pahang government, and necessities to 600 heads of households.

Ismail Sabri added that the plan for long-term solutions was discussed during the time of the Barisan Nasional government, but it was not continued.

Among measures that can be taken to reduce the problem of floods are implementing more flood mitigation projects, deepening rivers and other waterways like in

Kedah and building tunnels like Kuala Lumpur's SMART Tunnel for flood management in high-risk urban areas such as Shah Alam in Selangor.

"For low-lying areas that are prone to flooding, we can revisit the flood resettlement programme implemented in the 1970s. This calls for discussions with state governments to identify suitable high grounds and the Federal Government can help in terms of allocations," he said in a Bernama report.

On demands by certain quarters for the government to allow a

RM10,000 one-off withdrawal under the Employees Provident Fund's i-Citra scheme, even though flood aid given had exceeded RM10,000, Ismail Sabri said he only wanted to protect the people's interests.

"... those who are not satisfied, will continue to behave this way on social media. Everyone has their own duty.

"I hope we will not be affected by the attacks because we are doing our duty. This will not deter me from continuing to do my work," he said.