

BANTUAN WANG IHSAN

PM: SPEED UP CASH AID TO FLOOD VICTIMS

It will allow them to buy much needed items as soon as possible

RIZALMAN HAMMIM
SEGAMAT
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob has given the instruction that the distribution of the Bantuan Wang Ihsan (BWI) aid to flood victims must be expedited.

He said this would enable victims to use the money to buy the necessary items as soon as possible.

“I have issued an instruction to speed up the distribution of the aid. If possible, the aid should be given to the victims before they leave the temporary relief centres.

“Previously, it would take between three to six months for the aid to be disbursed. Now it must be expedited. We do not want victims to receive the aid after six months,” he said.

Ismail Sabri said he was told by an elderly woman that she had left her house for about four days and was concerned about the condition of her belongings.

“After four days, the items would definitely have been damaged. We are expediting the aid so that victims can buy essential items while they wait for other assistance,” Ismail Sabri said after visiting the flood relief centre at the Kampung Tandong Community Hall here.

He spent about an hour at the centre, where he was given a briefing by the Segamat Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) on the flood situation in the district.

Ismail Sabri then presented cash aid to 26 heads of households at the hall. Each household

received RM1,500, comprising RM1,000 from the federal government and RM500 from the state government.

He also approved an immediate allocation of RM5 million for the construction of a new bund in Sungai Muar to resolve the flood problem in the district.

“I have been briefed by the DID that if we want to solve the problem, there is a need to build a new higher bund (wall).

“The bund that broke in Segamat could not contain the large amount of water. So I have approved an allocation of RM5 million to build a new bund as a long term solution to the flood problem here.”

He also said the government would focus on areas or states with pressing flood issues.

“These critical places include Segamat, Johor, Temerloh in Pahang and Kelantan.

“After that, we will tackle flood issues in other states and areas in the country.”