

PM PLEDGES ADDITIONAL POST-FLOOD AID

These include vouchers to buy electrical appliances, repair damaged vehicles, cash to repair homes, says Ismail Sabri

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AFTER the distribution of RM1,000 Bantuan Wang Ihsan (BWI) to flood victims, the government will begin to distribute other post-flood aid starting today, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said such aid would include cash assistance amounting to RM2,500 for flood victims to buy household or essential goods.

Ismail Sabri, who is Bera member of parliament, said RM500 vouchers to buy electrical appliances, RM1,000 vehicle repair vouchers under the Keluarga Malaysia Automotive Discount Voucher initiative and cash assistance of up to RM5,000 per family for minor home repairs would be disbursed today.

"The RM2,500 cash handouts

will be delivered door to door, given to victims after they have gathered at a hall or deposited into the victims' bank accounts. Disaster operations control centres (PKOB) and the Implementation Coordination Unit will identify the suitable methods.

"The government initially planned to provide household and electrical appliances, including cooking stoves and electric rice cookers, but realised many non-governmental organisation and government-linked companies had provided such aid. Some houses even received up to three rice cookers.

"So we decided to provide the RM2,500 cash aid to allow flood victims to decide and buy for themselves," he said after distributing the last batch of BWI to 478 flood victims from the Bera parliamentary constituency here yesterday.

Ismail Sabri said there must not

be any delay or bureaucracy in distributing aid to the flood victims, as the victims were already burdened.

"We have the list of victims and payments can be made as scheduled. Those (flood victims) left out from the list of recipients can inform PKOB so that immediate arrangements can be made to ensure they receive the aid.

"Repair work for homes moderately damaged by floods (up to RM5,000) is being expedited and will start tomorrow (today), while for those with major repairs of between RM5,000 and RM15,000 will be handled by the Public Works Department (PWD)."

He said to make it convenient for flood victims to use the RM1,000 vehicle repair vouchers, district offices had been tasked to identify the nearest service centres and workshops.

"The Finance Ministry yesterday (on Saturday) announced a list of registered service centres and workshops but I told the finance minister (Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz) that more premises should be

added to the list.

"For example, in Bera there is no Proton service centre and motorists have to go to Temerloh.

"We do not want flood victims to pay extra to rent a lorry to bring their damaged motorcycles to the workshops. So the (nearest) workshops will be identified by district officers."

He also said he had instructed all the ministries and government departments to provide detailed reports on the damage or losses involving infrastructure that resulted from the floods.

"To date, we have spent RM1.4 billion on flood relief efforts. The amount will increase once we get more reports, including from PWD on the damage it has identified, the Drainage and Irrigation Department on the cost to repair water channels and other flood-related losses, including from the agriculture sector."

He said up to Saturday, 51,532 from a total of 54,678 heads of families hit by the first wave of floods had received the BWI, while 871 from 8,808 heads of families affected by the second wave of floods had received theirs.