

More funds allocated for post-flood measures: PM

> 82,000 personnel deployed nationwide, with involvement of NGOs, corporate bodies and individual volunteers

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has allocated additional funds for post-flood measures, which are expected to begin in the middle of this month, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

He said based on a report by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is National Disaster Management Committee chairman, floodwaters in some areas have started to recede.

"This is something that we should be prepared for. If the water is receding, there is a responsibility to restore the situation. That is why we also provide additional allocations to repair schools, relief centres and so on," he said at the monthly assembly of the Prime Minister's Department yesterday.

Also present were Ahmad Zahid, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar.

On Sunday, Anwar announced an additional immediate allocation of RM25 million each for Kelantan and Terengganu for

the repair of essential infrastructure such as roads and drainage systems as well as for raising road levels in Hulu Besut in Terengganu.

Anwar described preparations to deal with the flood situation by all parties, including the federal and state governments as exceptional this time.

"It would be good for me to stress about the Cabinet and the government service. Ministers, civil servants and the machinery are extraordinary.

"I see members of the Civil Defence Force, health personnel and everyone in Setiu that we visited, their eyes were swollen, they didn't sleep enough. These are good stories that are sometimes not highlighted."

Anwar said a total of 82,000 personnel from several agencies were deployed to flood locations across the country, in addition to the involvement of NGOs, corporate bodies and individual volunteers who came to help.

"I saw lorries bringing food from Penang. I happened to meet an individual from Bukit

Mertajam. He is not from an NGO but he (arranged for) 10 food trucks to be sent to Kelantan and asked the Armed Forces to help coordinate.

"This is the strength of the Malaysian people. The individual from Penang is a Chinese. He thinks this is a problem concerning all of us. Things like this should be highlighted to show the spirit of saving lives and helping our fellow men."

On other matters, Anwar said Malaysia is leveraging its foreign relations to enhance the economy, investment and the quality of education.

He added that during his recent working visits to Peru and Brazil, numerous world leaders recognised Malaysia's position on the global stage, *Bernama* reported.

"I have instructed follow-up actions to be coordinated by the Foreign Ministry, the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry, the Prime Minister's Department and relevant agencies."

He said Malaysia's achievements in combating corruption has caught the attention of Peru's President Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra, who expressed interest in learning from the experience of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission to address corruption in her country.