

Anwar to visit Sabah to assess worsening floods

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will visit Sabah today to assess the worsening flood situation.

"I'm going tomorrow," Anwar told reporters after officiating at the 46th General Assembly of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly at the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The number of evacuees housed at temporary relief centres in Sabah rose to 3,134 people from 916 families yesterday, up from 2,919 from 814 families on Wednesday.

According to the Sabah Disaster Management Committee, all evacuees are being accommodated at 27 relief centres across six districts – Beaufort, Membakut, Penampang, Papar, Putatan and Sipitang.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi was on the ground at Papar, Membakut and Bongawan yesterday to inspect the conditions of residents affected by floods and landslides.

He arrived at a temporary relief centre at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) St Patrick at 9.30am, where he spent about 30 minutes meeting evacuees and distributing essential supplies and cash aid. He also visited individuals taking shelter at SMK Bongawan, the Bongawan Community Hall and the Papar Community Hall.

He was also scheduled to visit the landslide site at Kampung Mook in Kinarut and meet villagers relocated to a local relief centre.

Evacuees expressed gratitude for the swift

response of the government.

Waris Dusun, 54, from Membakut, said he was moved by Ahmad Zahid's presence.

"I was touched that (Ahmad Zahid) came personally to see our situation. The assistance means a lot, as I lost many belongings in the floods. Thank you to the government."

Aswani Eli Awang, 42, from Kinarut, whose home was damaged by a landslide, shared a similar sentiment.

"We have been at the relief centre for almost a week and are anxious about the homes we left behind. The deputy prime minister's visit reassured us that we are not forgotten. The assistance is truly meaningful for my family, as we lost almost everything."

– Bernama