

Aid for flood victims
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ALLOCATION: Najib approves RM7.5m for flood-hit Hulu Langat residents

KAJANG : PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has approved an allocation of RM7.5 million to restore and repair damaged bridges and dams in Hulu Langat which were badly affected by floods on March 7.

Najib said the mitigation work would take place as soon as possible to speed up the restoration process in the district where 3,578 families were affected during flash floods.

"I approve RM7.5 million as a short-term measure to restore bridges and dams in Hulu Langat including one at Sungai Serai."

The allocation would cover RM3.5 million to rebuild the mainline bridge, RM1 million for two culverts and RM3 million for relocation of utilities.

Najib said he was earlier briefed by the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) and the Public Works Department which requested for short-term flood mitigation measures.

He was briefed by Selangor DID director Ab Qahar Osman on the proposed RM15 million six-hectare Sungai Serai retention pond in Hulu Langat which is expected to be built in two years.

"We will implement these short-term measures this year. If possible, work on the projects will begin before the general election," he said at an event to hand over assistance to flood victims at the Dusan Tua National Youth Skills Institute (IKBN) near here, yesterday.

Najib said that the National Security Council (NSC) had also contributed RM1.7 million and the 1Malaysia Development Bhd gave RM2.5 million to assist the flood victims.

Earlier, during a walkabout at the proposed site of the Sungai Serai Retention Pond, Najib said each family in the flood hit areas would get cash aid of RM500 from NSC and another RM500 from 1MDB.

He said 1MDB was also providing RM5,000 to cover repair costs for about 100 families whose houses were damaged besides providing RM50,000 to cover transport and general costs and another RM50,000 for equipment damaged at the mosque and surau in the area.

Najib said Kelab 1Malaysia had also donated two mattresses and a stove for each of the families at a total cost of RM5 million.

Meanwhile, a flood victim, Yusliza Tupon, 46, from Sungai Serai was overwhelmed by the Najib's visit to her house to hand over two mattresses to her family.

"I'm so grateful to have the prime minister come down to see my family and present us with the aid. This shows that he is concerned about the people."

She added Selangor Umno Youth and volunteers had been helpful in helping her family to clean up the house after the flooding.

Another victim, Norraya Ahmad, 57, said life had been difficult after the floods hit as she had to take care of her ill mother and grandchildren.

"I cried when I heard the prime minister wanted to visit us and enquired about our situation. This shows he is very concerned about our welfare.

"His visit has given us new hope to move on from our trying times and the aid given will help our family a great deal."

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