

**Parliament: Government Denies Misappropriation Of Flood Aid Allocation**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 10 (Bernama) -- The government has denied any misappropriation in the distribution of flood aid to victims affected by the disaster in December last year.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said any allocation for disbursement under the coordination of the National Security Council (NSC) had been handed over to the recipients based on the list prepared by the Social Welfare Department.

"The money is not missing and aid has been channelled to the flood victims as should have been but the fact is we need to change the mentality," he said when replying to a supplementary question from Dr Tan Seng Giaw (Kepong-DAP).

In addressing the disaster, he said all quarters needed to change their mentality on the aspects of forest protection and monitoring of the forest and cultivation projects in the hill areas to ensure the water catchment areas were not affected.

He also urged the state government to implement proactive action to protect the forest areas and monitor cultivation projects in their respective states to avoid a worst flood crisis from reoccurring.

Earlier replying to a question from Tan Sri Annuar Musa (BN-Ketereh), Shahidan said based on census data until last Feb 27, the total number of flood victims who lost their homes nationwide were 2,094 families, including 1,827 in Kelantan.

Other states that recorded the destruction of homes were Pahang (224 families), Terengganu (17 families) and Perak (26 families).

Annuar was seeking clarification on the number of families who lost their homes due to the floods in Kelantan last December.

He said 6,693 houses were eligible for aid under the programme to repair the damaged houses of the flood victims.

Replying to a supplementary question from Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing (BN-Bintulu) on the government's plan to assist the affected victims, Shahidan said it had allocated RM97,140,000 to be distributed to the 94,280 recipients comprising victims who evacuated and did not evacuated.

As a long-term measure to spur the flood victims' economy, he said the government had channelled allocations under the Small Traders Economic Recovery Aid programme of RM100 million to Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM) and RM100 million to Tekun Nasional, he said.

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