

Kelantan Government Identifies Site To Build Houses For Homeless Flood Victims
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KOTA BAHARU, March 17 (Bernama) -- The Kelantan government has identified a suitable site for the construction of permanent houses for flood victims who have no land, the State Legislative Assembly was told Tuesday.

Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob said that prior to the extraordinary floods of December last year, the victims lived in houses built on river reserve land and land owned by Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB).

He said the new cluster settlement on land provided by the state government would be equipped with various infrastructure and was expected to be completed in the next three to six months.

"The state government has identified 24 hectares of land in Enggang (Kuala Krai) and 8.4 ha in Telekong (Kuala Krai) for the construction of permanent houses for victims who do not have their own land," he said in reply to a supplementary question from Datuk Md Alwi Che Ahmad (BN-Kok Lanas).

According to the records of the Kelantan State Floods Joint Committee, 1,827 houses were completely destroyed by the floods in the state, and about 1,200 of the victims did not own housing plots.

Replying to the original question, from Azami Mohd Nor (PAS-Kadok), Ahmad said that for the victims who had their own land, the government was building permanent houses, at least 10 in each of the state constituencies of Machang, Kuala Krai and Gua Musang.

When answering a question from Mohd Zaki Ibrahim (PAS-Kelaboran), Ahmad said the state government intended to build dams at Sungai Nenggiri and Sungai Lebir in Gua Musang as a long-term measure to overcome the floods.

He said the extraordinary flow of water from the two rivers had caused major flooding, especially in Kuala Krai, which is where the two rivers meet to become Sungai Kelantan.

He said the state government would also streamline the aid machinery required during and after the floods to face the disaster in the future.

Meanwhile, State Industry, Trade and Social Unity Committee chairman Datuk Anuar Tan Abdullah said RM3.9 million had been allocated to help flood-affected entrepreneurs to resume business.

As many as 825 of the 1,000 flood-affected entrepreneurs had resumed business through the entrepreneurship development scheme, he said when replying to Mohamad Zaki Ibrahim.

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