

Kelantan Govt's Failure To Work With NSC Among Causes Of Weak Flood Management
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 30 (Bernama) -- The failure of the Kelantan government to cooperate with the National Security Council (NSC) is one of the causes for poor and disorganised flood management in the state.

Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed said this was stated by the NSC during its meeting with the PAC recently.

"The MKN admitted that there were weaknesses in management planning as well as cooperation from the state government.

"Previously, there was no problem of cooperation between the NSC and the state government relating to the floods, but last year this cooperation was broken so much so that for the first time, there were no coordination meetings between the MKN and the state government," he told reporters after chairing a PAC meeting at the Parliament building here today.

However, Nur Jazlan was not informed about the cause of the breakdown in cooperation.

The Pulai Member of Parliament also said the NSC itself admitted the weaknesses in the management during the recent severe floods.

In the meeting, the PAC was also informed of NSC's proposed preparations for the floods this year which included using a scientific approach to predict rainfall and new flood locations.

"They will also be acting on the government's directives to improve the national disaster policy and mechanism, the existing standard operating procedure which must be updated with the coming flood season this year," he said.

Meanwhile, he said the government had so far given almost RM400 million to help flood victims in several states.

Nur Jazlan said the money given through the National Disaster Relief Fund under the NSC was part of a RM786-million allocation.

He added that RM135,000 had been given to 27 families with each getting RM5,000 due to loss of life.

"Meanwhile, the number of people who received RM500 aid was 276,720 (RM138,360,000) while RM145 million was provided for the construction of 2,094 permanent houses," he said.

The amount also included the cost of repairing damaged houses (RM96 million), agriculture aid of RM45 million and miscellaneous RM535,000.

He said the flood aid allocation this time was monitored by the National Audit Department and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission to avoid any misappropriations.

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