

DPM's Visit Brings Joy To Flood Victims In Pos Kemar Orang Asli Settlement
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GERIK, Jan 1 (Bernama) -- "I'm so happy because for the first time today, a top leader of the country came to Pos Kemar," are the words of Kampung Bal Tok Batin Zainal Abain, 52, after receiving Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin at the village, here.

The village, an Orang Asli settlement was cut off from the land route due to damaged roads, landslides and collapsed bridges caused by the flood that hit the area.

"I'm so happy that Tan Sri Muhyiddin was willing to spend his time to visit us here," the Tok Batin told reporters.

Zainal said he had not been able to tap rubber trees over the past three weeks due to floods and continuous rain.

"This is the worst floods ever occurred here. Many utility poles fell and we have to use water transport to get to town," he said.

The Pos Kemar Orang Asli settlement comprised 15 villages, including Kampung Bal, Kampung Senangit, Kampung Bada, Kampung Jarau Lama, Kampung Jarau Baru, Kampung Katong and Kampung Rantau, settled by Orang Asli from the Temiang tribe.

The settlement has over 4,000 residents from 975 families.

Kampung Senangit Tok Batin, Anjang Abus, 46, said despite being cut off from the land route, the villagers still received sufficient food supplies.

"Once a week, food supplies, such as rice and sardine, were sent to us here. The supplies usually last for a week," he said.

Anjang said it had reduced the burden of villagers to take a boat ride to the nearest town to purchase their own supplies.

"We need to pay RM60 for a return boat trip from the village to the jetty...and once arrived at the jetty, we need to pay another RM40 for a return trip to the town...and this does not include the cost to purchase the supplies," he added.

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