

**Government To Store Food In Schools As Flood Preparations – Shahidan
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ALOR SETAR, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- The government has decided to set up food storerooms at schools, especially in flood-prone areas, to ensure that flood evacuees will be able to get quick and sufficient food supply during floods.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said this was part of the preparations to face floods.

"Right now, we are looking for suitable schools to have that storerooms set up and filled with one-week supply of food," he told reporters after the conferment of Civil Defence Department (JPAM) ranks and the setting up of the Kedah Civil Defence Emergency Response Team (CDERT) here Sunday.

Seventeen people, comprising Kedah assemblymen, senior state government officers and private companies were conferred with the JPAM ranks to help in the disaster management at the community level.

In a separate event, Shahidan said efforts were being done to lure more Indians to join the JPAM as volunteers as the participation of the community was still low.

"I will discuss with the Malaysian Tamil Youth Bell Club to formulate strategies to encourage Indian youths to join the JPAM," the minister said after opening the club's convention at the Perlis Correctional Centre, in Arau.

He said several approaches, including by reviving JPAM programmes at all levels, were being taken to improve public acceptance for the uniformed body.

At present, JPAM has 850,000 volunteers, with 570 permanent staff, nationwide.

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