

Malaysia doesn't need foreign help, says Najib

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia does not need foreign help to tackle the floods in the country, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Tun Razak said.

Najib, who is also Defence Minister and National Disaster Management and Relief Committee chairman, said Malaysia was capable of handling the situation and that flood relief efforts were put in motion the moment floods struck the affected states.

"We will handle it by ourselves. The situation has stabilised. No need (for foreign help)," he told a press conference at the Defence Ministry here yesterday when asked if Malaysia would accept foreign help.

There had been reports of several countries stating willingness to help Malaysia in handling the calamity.

Najib also said financial aid

would be given to flood victims, just as had been done during last year's floods.

He said the floods this time in Johor were unusual because of the abnormally-high rainfall over a 24-hour period earlier this week, and that everyone was ill-prepared on the first day the floods happened.

However, the authorities acted swiftly and flood relief operations improved thereafter, he said.

He added that he was satisfied with how the situation was being handled.

Najib also expressed his disappointment that some people had resorted to looting in the wake of the disaster, which was reported to have happened in Segamat, one of the worst-hit towns in Johor.

He said this was unacceptable and also could not be forgiven.

— Bernama