

Flood victims still homeless

Nearly half of promised homes incomplete

MANY of those made homeless in the devastating 2014 floods have to continue staying in tents and transit homes since at the end of last year, almost half of the Permanent House project (RKB) had yet to be built.

"The overall performance of the home construction project is less satisfactory.

"A total of 557 (40%) of the 1,395 RKB houses have yet to be completed, causing the victims to continue staying at transit houses or tents," said the report.

Information on the RKB recipients, it added, was also not fully updated in the flood management information system (ePASCA ban-jir), causing "an erosion of data integrity".

Thirty-six flood victims did not receive any assistance from the housing projects or for repair works despite their homes being completely damaged in the flood, it noted.

It also pointed out that there were 54 recipients of the project who did not meet the eligibility requirement, including some whose houses were not considered completely damaged or were unoccupied, rented, shop lots and involved non-resident owners.

The findings were gleaned from an audit carried out between September and November last year in the flood-stricken states - Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Perak and Sabah.

It said the process of recipient



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Sorry situation: A file picture of a flood victim sitting outside the tent her family stayed in after their house was destroyed in the floods in Kuala Krai, Kelantan, last year.



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selection, verification, appointment of contractors, work execution and certification payment had been done in a fast-track manner in line with the Government's orders.

The implementation of the project, however, was less effective.

"There were issues with compliance with the set design, failure of contractors to complete the project, abandoned projects and the appropriateness of the construction site," it said.

The report also identified 109 houses which were restored but did not comply with the scope of the project.

"These include the repairs of stores and barns, the construction of new walls and garages although these were not damaged by the floods, painting work for fences, replacement of undamaged roofs and the instalment of grills, cabi-

nets and ceilings," it said in calling for a special standard operating procedure to be set up for post-flood programmes and a review of the selection mechanism.

In its reply, the Prime Minister's Department said among the main reasons for the delay were the procedures involved in procuring land from the respective state government as well as the land status of the project recipients.

A further audit showed that the delay in starting the project was due to difficulty in finding available contractors for the stated cost, said the department.