

Over 20,000 households have received cash aid

KUALA LUMPUR: More than 20,000 households affected by the floods received Bantuan Wang Ihsan (BWI) cash aid on Sunday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, in a statement yesterday, said out of 46,162 households, 28,258 or 61.2 per cent received the aid within 10 days of the floods, instead of three to six months on previous occasions.

Of the 51 deceased flood victims, 38 family members have received the BWI death management assistance.

"BWI has been fully distributed to the affected households in Kelantan, Federal Territories, Melaka, Terengganu

and Perak. In Pahang, BWI has been distributed to 65.5 per cent of household heads, Negri Sembilan, 82.7 per cent, and Selangor, 47.6 per cent.

"The distribution, being coordinated by the National Disaster Management Agency, National Security Council, army, police, Welfare Department and district offices, is expected to be completed by Jan 5. This is excluding flood victims in the second wave," he said.

He made the announcement after chairing the Special Meeting of the Northeast Monsoon Disaster Post-Flood Management Task Force.

The government had an-

nounced various financial aid measures for the victims, which could reach up to RM61,000 per household.

From Dec 27 to Jan 1, RM33 million out of the RM93 million Bank Simpanan Nasional micro loans for households were approved, he said.

With regard to the GLC Disaster Recovery Network, 60 per cent of the RM58 million contribution has been implemented.

The flood victims may also use vouchers to purchase domestic electrical appliances as announced by the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry in its Sustainability Achieved via Energy Efficiency (SAVE) at

selected premises or online from Jan 7.

Discounts and vehicle repair vouchers can also be used from Dec 19. Applications for other flood-relief by Bank Negara Malaysia have been initiated since Dec 27.

Six-month moratorium applications for loans could be made since Dec 19. Similarly, the RM30 million Flood Recovery Loan through Tekun Nasional was also initiated on Jan 1, he said.

"A total RM25 million has been allocated for cleaning and repair of public infrastructure involving the Housing and Local Government, Defence, and Home ministries," he added.

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DATUK SERI ISMAIL SABRI YAAKOB

Prime minister