

KERATAN AKHBAR

TARIKH : 13 JANUARI 2022

AKHBAR : THE MALAYSIAN RESERVE

CAPAIAN : <https://themalaysianreserve.com/2022/01/13/pasir-mas-flood-victims-receive-aid/>

Pasir Mas flood victims receive aid



The 10 affected home owners are the Post-Flood Home Repairs 2022 earliest recipients in the country

THE Post-Flood Home Repairs 2022 pilot programme in Pasir Mas, Kelantan, is set to assist 10 owners of homes that had been damaged by the December 2021 floods.

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) DG Datuk Ruji Ubi said the flood victims in Pasir Mas were the programme's earliest recipients in the country, chosen from the Bantuan Wang Ihsan's (BWI) list of names.

According to him, this assistance is being carried out in stages by the Disaster Operations Control Centre (PKOB), the Rural Development Ministry, and the Housing and Local Government Ministry.

"We are focusing on three categories, namely for damages below RM5,000 which will be paid in cash, home repairs costing RM15,000 and constructions of new homes which are expected to be completed within six months.

"This programme has already started since last Monday in several areas in Klang, Selangor, Melaka and Bentong, Pahang, involving RM1,000 BWI cash aid for each household, in addition to basic food aid," he said.

Ruji spoke to reporters after handing out the Purchase of Essential Goods Assistance to flood victims at Kampung Putat Tujuh, Rantau Panjang, on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob had earlier announced the initiative to alleviate the burden of flood victims nationwide.

The assistance involves the purchase of necessities amounting to RM2,500, discounts on vehicle repairs, RM500 rebates on purchase of electrical goods RM500 and house repair assistance between RM5,000 and RM15,000.

Commenting further, Ruji said if the cost of home repairs is less than RM5,000, the assistance is given in cash and the recipient can engage their own contractors.

For repairs between RM5,000 and RM15,000, the PMO ICU will appoint contractors who have been shortlisted and assessed in advance by PKOB.

“Information on all recipients of the Post-Flood Home Repairs 2022 pilot programme is almost ready for flood victims in Kelantan and Sabah.

“To date, there are still several states that have yet to complete their list of recipients.

“In Kelantan, this programme involves the areas from Pasir Mas to Rantau Panjang, namely Kampung Bukit Tandak, Kampung Tok Deh, Kampung Putat Tujuh and a few more areas that had been hit by the recent floods.”

Ruji noted that the two states that were most affected by the flood disaster at the end of last year were Pahang and Selangor.

“These two states had the highest number of BWI recipients, while Kelantan only involved 6,000 households which included victims of the second wave of floods.”

A KELANTANESE in his golden years who lives all by himself in Kampung Putat, Rantau Panjang, is grateful for the Post-Flood Home Repairs 2022 pilot programme, which enables him to repair his father’s battered heirloom.

Zulkifli Abdul Rahman, 60, said the house that has been his shelter for the past 30 years had often been submerged in floods every monsoon season, causing it to rot and perforate.

Without permanent employment and simply doing odd jobs around the village, Zulkifli could not afford to repair the almost-collapsing heritage house.

“I earn RM50 a day if my service as a village labourer is needed.

“Apart from the old house, the roof has also been leaking for a long time and I just let rain fall into the house.

“I am very grateful for the RM2,500 cash assistance through the Post-Flood Home Repairs 2022 pilot programme. Besides that, I will also receive RM15,000 to repair the house,” he said when met on Tuesday.

Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) DG Datuk Ruji Ubi visited Zulkifli’s house to deliver the cash aid, which the latter said will allow him to move on with life, especially since he is no longer able to do heavy work.

“All these years living alone, I had never received assistance other than basic food from the village chief, even with my house getting inundated by the annual monsoon season floods,” Zulkifli said.

Mukim Kuin Merah chief Rosli Sulaiman acknowledged Zulkifli as a deserving recipient of the cash aid as he would be affected during every flood season.

“Zulkifli had to move to a temporary evacuation centre whenever his house was submerged in waist-level floodwater.”

Rosli hoped the assistance will lighten Zulkifli's burden, in addition to giving him hope to have a better life after the disaster.