

KERATAN AKHBAR

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BERA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the delay in flood aid distribution, especially involving the purchase of electrical goods amounting to RM500 and aid of RM2,500 to replace damaged items, is due to the verification process for eligibility.

He said despite some delays, especially those involving non-evacuated victims, he had instructed all parties to expedite the process so that it would not be as late as during previous floods, when payments had taken up to six months.

"Some delays were due to obtaining verification from Tok Ampat (village chiefs) or parties involved as some were affected by the floods, but their homes are on the fifth or 10th floor, with no damage to electrical goods or some houses were flooded only up to

ankle level.

"If possible, I want to give the assistance to all, but it involves government money that has to go through audits and so on. So, there are details that are needed," he said when visiting flood victims at the Kampung Guai mosque yesterday.

At the event, Ismail Sabri presented assistance in the form of household necessities donated by the Bera parliamentary office and the Rural Development Ministry to 80 representatives of flood victims from Kampung Guai, Kampung Charuk Puting and Kampung Batu Bor, all in the Bera district.

He added the government is committed to help flood victims as soon as possible to ease their financial burden by providing compassionate cash aid of RM1,000 each from

the federal government.

Ismail Sabri, who is Bera member of parliament, thanked the authorities and residents of Bera district who acted quickly since the beginning of the flood disaster, preventing untoward incidents.

"As we have (always) been hit by floods, we were ready. Temporary evacuation centres had been identified since the beginning and disaster management was ready from November. Village heads had also been trained and those living by the river were ready with boats.

"But I would like to apologise as I could not be here physically during the floods. Every year, whenever there is flooding, I come here by boat, but the big floods this time occurred in several states and I had to be at those locations, too."
- Bernama