



Even floods can't stop them

Their home in Parit Putat, Sg Rambai near Jasin, Malacca may be flooded but it has not stopped Yah Radiman (right), 72, from preparing for Hari Raya Aidiladha tomorrow. Helping her weave *ketupat* is her grandchild Norlizah Ali, 21, while her other grandchildren have their hands full throwing water out from the house.
— NST picture by Mohd Yusni Ariffin

21 convicts to sacrifice cattle

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KUALA LUMPUR: Fourteen male and seven female convicts are to sacrifice three head of cattle at the Kajang Prison in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha tomorrow.

Prisons Department deputy director-general Datuk Zulkipli Omar said they were among 400 pre-release prisoners who worked at workshops and factories and received salaries.

To perform the *korban*, each must have RM300, he said here yesterday.

"This is the second year that prisoners are taking part in

the ceremony and the first involving female prisoners.

"It shows the prisoners' rising awareness of the ceremony as the number of participants increased two-fold this year," he said.

Zulkipli said the department hoped the programme would be expanded to prisons nationwide.

Subri, 36, who is serving 2½ years for breach of trust, is one of the 14 male prisoners taking part in the programme and he hopes the sacrifice will bring him closer to God.

He said that before he was

jailed, he had neglected the *korban* ceremony even though he could afford it.

"In prison, I learned a lot about religion and the meaning of sacrifice and it led me to take part in the event this year after I was told that my salary could pay for a part of a cattle," said Subri

He has been working for a year in a workshop that builds water tanks.

Sahrul, 27, a diploma holder in hotel management and tourism, is serving three and a half years for taking and selling drugs and intimidating a

public employee.

He said he hoped the *korban* would pay for his mistakes.

"I mixed with the wrong crowd, was hooked on drugs and committed many bad things. My parents were disappointed with and lost confidence in me," he said.

The sacrifice ceremony was his first change in life before his release in July, he said.

"My New Year resolution is to start afresh and become a man one can depend on and, more importantly for me, to prove that I've changed."

Liza, 40, a mother of four

children aged between four and 18 years, has been in and out of prisons seven times for drug-taking.

She said she hoped the *korban* would give her the strength to change.

"I will perform the sacrifice on my own will because I feel the time has come for me to change and I believe that if I don't change now, I'll be like this forever," she said.

She added that she was praying for her husband, who is serving time in jail, to have the same determination to change. — Bernama