

# Govt incurs RM1.5b flood bill

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## A STAGGERING RM1.5 billion in losses.

That is the damage the floods in the last two months cost the Government, Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the losses incurred were from the Government account and did not include personal and commercial losses.

The losses estimated were based on Government spending to repair infrastructure damaged by the floods and aid to the victims, he said after chairing the Aid Management and Disaster Committee meeting in Putrajaya.

Of the RM1.5 billion, some RM350 million has been set aside for the Public Works Department to repair bridges and roads, RM137 million for the Rural Development Ministry to repair roads in villages and RM102 million for the Education Ministry for repairs on schools and equipment.

A total of 148,000 people were evacuated during the floods that started on Dec 18 and 134,000 were evacuated during the second wave of floods on Jan 12.

Johor was the worst affected state.

Victims of the first round of floods will receive RM200 while those affected by the second wave of floods will receive another RM200 other than the one-off aid of RM500 for repairs to damaged homes.

The aid comes from the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry's fund.

Najib added the flood victims will also receive a maximum RM3,000 each for repairs to their damaged houses or according to the cost of repairs, whichever is lower.

As for the 45 families whose houses



**WATER LOGGED**

A month after the floods parts of Batu Pahat are still under water

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were destroyed by the floods, he said Syarikat Perumahan Negara will build new houses on the original sites.

"Syarikat Perumahan Negara will use the money donated by the public and corporations," he added.

An allocation from the Government account will also be used to help affected students while those in secondary schools will receive RM200 and those in primary will receive RM100 each.

Najib said all aid to the flood victims will be co-ordinated by district offices.

"All the money donated by the public will be used for the benefit of the flood victims. The Government is transparent about this," he added.

The number of flood evacuees in Batu Pahat, Johor, has dropped to 28,935 yesterday.

They were from 6,883 families and were housed at 65 relief centres, said a State police spokesman. — Bernama