

RM102mil to repair schools

STAR 31/1

Flood-hit Johor to get lion's share

PUTRAJAYA: A total of 379 schools in eight states damaged by floods will benefit from the RM102.2mil allocation given to the Education Ministry.

Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said of this amount, RM61.3mil would be used for physical repairs and RM40.9mil to purchase new furniture and equipment.

Schools in Johor, Malacca, Negri Sembilan, Sabah, Sarawak, Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu were affected.

The lion's share of funds, RM65.5mil, will be spent on Johor with Sabah receiving the second highest amount RM19.65mil.

Damage to schools included roofs that were blown away, classrooms filled with mud, spoilt doors and windows as well as damage to the fencing and fields.

Some schools were also affected by land-

slides and this posed a danger to students and teachers. Others have had their electricity and water supply cut off, Hishammuddin said in a statement.

Of the 379 schools, 152 were under water, 175 used as relief centres and 52 cut off from communication. Until yesterday, 90 schools are still affected with 37 submerged, 26 used as relief centres and 27 cut off.

Hishammuddin said that vernacular schools would also receive assistance from the Government.

He said that all the special requests forwarded by Barisan component party leaders, including MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek and Deputy Education Minister Datuk Hon Choon Kim, had been approved.