

# Moving out

STAR 4/2

## Flood-hit village to be relocated to higher ground

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**KOTA TINGGI:** Kampung Tembiah, one of the hardest hit villages in the recent floods, and other high-risk villages here will be relocated to higher ground.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Johor government would identify the other villages and residential areas that were prone to floods and submit a proposal to the

> **TURN TO PAGE 3**



**Dangerous existence:** The Sungai Johor flowing next to Kampung Tembiah in Kota Tinggi, Johor. The river may flow gently now but will put the entire village at risk when it overflows its banks as seen in the recent floods in Johor. — KENNETH WONG / The Star

▶ **See Focus 27**

Grappling with the aftermath

# Najib: We have to find new solutions to flooding problem

STAR 4/2

> FROM PAGE 1

Federal government for allocation.

"Besides this, many houses have also been destroyed or need major repairs.

"The Federal government will study the proposal and give the necessary aid needed.

"We also need to think of other ways to face the problem, so places like Kota Tinggi, Batu Pahat and Muar must have a programme or projects to prevent future floods,"

he said.

"Kampung Tembloh will be moved to another location because it is exposed to the high risk of flooding," he added.

The state has not decided on the new location of Kampung Tembloh.

Najib, here on a working visit, handed out RM3.75mil in aid to some 7,500 families (RM500 each) at the Dewan Jubli Intan.

He said the Drainage and Irrigation Department had also been asked to identify the districts

with drainage and irrigation problems and start flood mitigation projects immediately.

He added that Syarikat Perumahan Negara would rebuild 91 houses in Johor that were totally destroyed in the floods.

Najib said existing funds would be used to bear part of the building cost so that the repayment rate for the house owner would be less than RM50 per month.

"The duration of the repayment period will be determined later,"

he said, adding that commercial banks should not make the loan process more complicated for businessmen.

On the RM500 financial aid, Najib said all districts in Johor would receive the aid in the next few days. The aid would first be given to those who had evacuated to relief centres.

Chin Chin Keow, 45, of Taman Kuso said that she was happy to receive the RM500 as she would now be able to buy new furniture

and repair her damaged home.

Lalitha Gangadharan, 32, said she would use the money to rent another house as she felt that Taman Kuso was no longer safe for her family.

Rohana Abdullah, 26 from Kampung Tembloh, said that she would use the money to pay outstanding utility bills and also her children's kindergarten fees.

Meanwhile, 1,446 evacuees are still staying at seven relief centres in Batu Pahat.