

No need for RCI on flood management, says Najib

KUALA LUMPUR: There is no need for a Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) to be set up to look into management of the recent floods which affected the nation, the Dewan Rakyat was told yesterday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the government was already looking at ways to improve flood management and standard operating procedures for natural disasters.

"We are looking into ways to improve and update the current capabilities of the relevant agencies especially when faced with big floods and rapid rise of water levels," he said in reply to Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said (BN-Pengerang)

Azalina had asked on the need to set up a RCI to study the weaknesses of the relevant agencies during the recent floods.

Najib said that based on recent

incidences, several issues were identified that required further improvement.

"This includes increasing competency and leadership in agencies and departments at district, state and federal levels such as on the method of communication."

He said improvement on an accurate early warning system was also needed.

"We also need to increase the ca-

pabilities of our assets and logistics that are suitable for search and rescue operations during extreme disasters."

Najib said skilled officers on disaster management needed to be deployed at district and state levels for better coordination and effective management during disasters.

"The government is looking at the best disaster management models currently being applied in

several countries that are often hit by disasters."

Najib added that emphasis should be given to development projects to ensure that they were sustainable.

"This includes land development, mining, opening of new land sites and logging.

"If it is not sustainable, it can lead to disasters, which served as a lesson for us during the recent floods," he said.