

Reps unhappy with MB's answers on cause of floods

'NO ACTION': BN assemblymen say state didn't carry out experts' recommendations

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KELANTAN Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob's explanation on the cause of the floods last year at the state assembly sitting caused dissatisfaction among Barisan Nasional representatives.

Opposition leader Datuk Norzula Mat Diah said although it was true the exceptionally high rainfall was one of the factors, the menteri besar did not touch on other issues regarding it.

Norzula and several BN representatives stood up to ask supplementary questions after Ahmad replied to Mohamad Zaki Ibrahim (Pas-Kelantan), but they were ignored by Speaker Datuk Abdullah Ya'kub.

Ahmad said the major causes were



logging, opening up of land and plantations without proper planning, and rivers becoming shallow.

"I am not satisfied as they have held discussions on the flood issue, but did not find ways to solve them.

"The views and suggestions made by the higher education institutions

were not implemented," said Norzula.

"I want to tell them that they should not try to find ways to solve the problems at the end of the year.

"We should have cleaned up and deepened the rivers earlier so that water could flow freely," he said.

Norzula said the state government was depending on the Federal Government to make early preparations.

He said the Federal Government had taken steps to prepare for the floods this year, involving various government departments and agencies.

"We are satisfied with the work done by the various agencies, especially the Fire and Rescue Depart-

ment, police and the National Security Council," he said.

Earlier, Ahmad in his reply said based on reports by the Meteorological Department and the Drainage and Irrigation Department, the floods from Dec 17 to 28 were caused by continuous exceptionally heavy rainfall.

He said the state government had held several workshops on managing floods and the findings brought to the state executive council.

"One of the suggestions that have been implemented is the formation of an

interdepartment co-ordination committee, especially at the district level to coordinate relief efforts," he said.



**Datuk
Ahmad Yakob**