

DPM: Let's join hands and help flood victims

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi wants politicians from both sides of the political divide to put aside their differences and join forces to help flood victims in affected areas.

The Deputy Prime Minister said, "when differences are set aside, it will be easier for us to coordinate relief efforts".

He said this at the briefing on best practices during flood management to Barisan and Opposition MPs and district officers here yesterday.

He also called for state governments, local authorities, district councils, village heads and non-governmental organisations to unite and avoid a power struggle.

Dr Ahmad Zahid, who heads the National Disaster Management Committee, said the committee would come up with a pre-registered list of families from flood-prone areas to help distribute monetary aid effectively.

Previously, registration was done during the evacuation process.

"A portion from the RM500 cash aid would also be used to pay premiums to the insurance company," he said.

In Johor Baru, several areas around the city were hit by flash floods following a downpour that lasted an hour yesterday.

Johor Baru City Council public relations officer Mohd Firdaus Hamid said the flash floods led to the temporary closure of Jalan Wong Ah Fook at about 1pm.

"The flood pumps were quickly turned on, and the water receded within half an hour," he said.