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'Homes ready in 3 months'

NIK IMRAN ABDULLAH

ASSISTANCE: Homeless flood victims eligible for 3-bedroom house

THE people of Kelantan who are homeless after the floods are eligible to receive a three-bedroom house for every family, State Secretary Datuk Mohd Faudzi Che Mamat said.

He said the cost of building such a house, to be financed by the Federal Government, was estimated to be between RM30,000 and RM40,000.

"Based on our projection, the housing project to be built on state land is expected to be ready in about three months," he said after a handover ceremony of a mock cheque for RM1.2 million for flood victims from Bank Islam here yesterday.

On Dec 31, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had reportedly said the government would build permanent homes on safer sites for the victims after discussions with the state government to identify suitable land.

On Jan 8, the state government agreed to allocate more than 100ha of land for the resettlement of victims, who had been made homeless by the floods.

Faudzi said the design of the houses would likely adopt the concept used by the Federal Government in its existing project for the hardcore poor, or similar to the state-run project for the poor, with floor space covering 75.8m square.

He said the Kelantan post-flood management joint committee had accounted for 2,675 houses which were either completely damaged or washed away by the flood.

In the meantime, he said, homeless flood victims would be provided with temporary accommodation at vacant government quarters, commercial buildings, tents.

"For those staying with their relatives, the state government will provide a monthly allowance of RM300 over three months or until the permanent housing project is ready.

"We will also pay rent on behalf of the victims if they choose to live at privately-owned buildings that we have rented for tem-

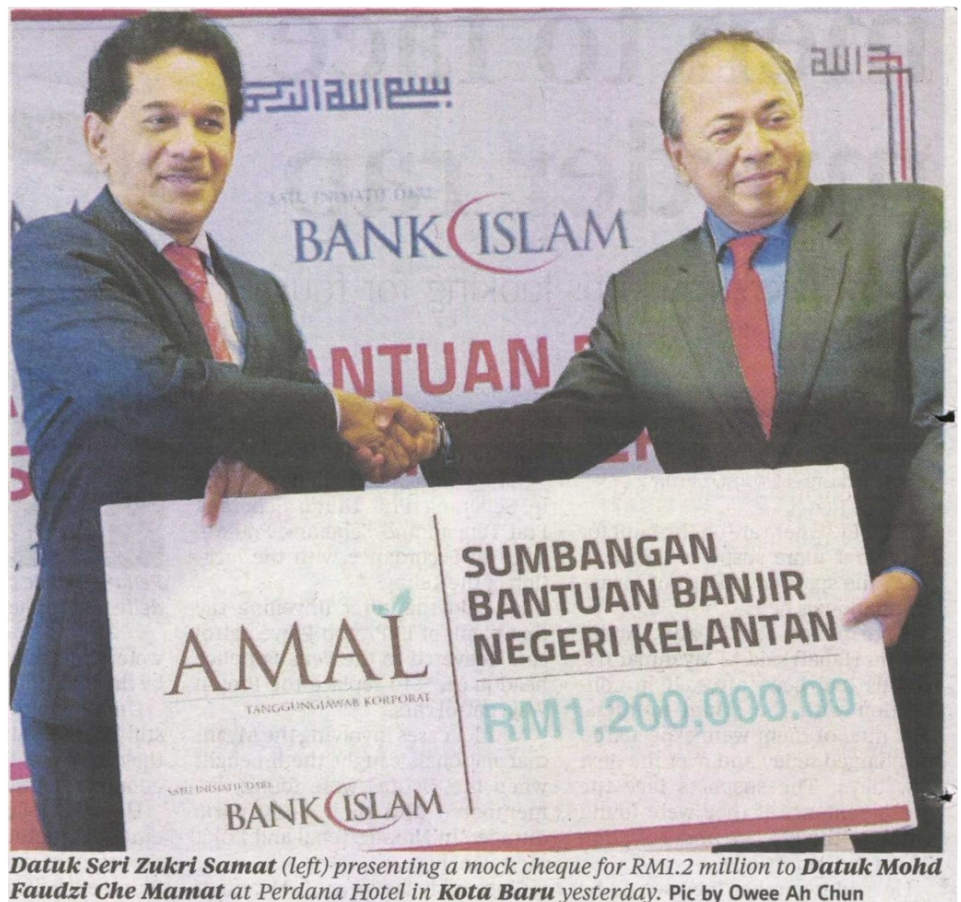
porary accommodation," he said.

At yesterday's event, Bank Islam managing director Datuk Seri Zukri Samat said RM1 million from the total amount would be used to pay for rebuilding homes damaged by the flood.

"We will leave it to the state government to identify the flood victims who need repairs to their houses," he said after presenting the cheque to Faudzi.

Zukri said the RM1 million came from its zakat (tithe) funds while the remaining RM200,000, from its corporate social responsibility account, was cash distribution for the flood victims.

"We hope that our contribution can lighten the burden of the victims to continue with their lives," he said.



Datuk Seri Zukri Samat (left) presenting a mock cheque for RM1.2 million to Datuk Mohd Faudzi Che Mamat at Perdana Hotel in Kota Baru yesterday. Pic by Owee Ah Chun