

# KB rivermouth to be deepened: CM

KOTA BELUD: Sand dredging will be carried out to deepen rivers particularly at Kuala Abai, here, as part of the efforts to address flash floods problem in the district.

Chief Minister, Datuk Seri Hajiji Haji Noor, said the shallow river mouth was one of the reasons identified for the frequent flooding.

"We will give the sand dredging contract to credible and capable local contractors that will be done as a joint-venture effort with State Government-linked companies," he said, after visiting flood victims at the temporary shelter in Dewan Tun Said Keruak, Monday.

Hajiji assured that the State Government was also looking at other ways to address the problem.

"We will find the best," he said, adding flooding seldom happened in Kota Belud previously but became frequent ever since the Mount Kinabalu earthquake in 2015.

Earlier, the Chief Minister was briefed on the district's flood situation that began after prolonged downpour on Jan. 16.

So far 240 people from 38 villages have been evacuated to the five temporary shelters here.

Some 30 families comprising 102 people have been temporarily putting up at Dewan Tun Said Keruak as rising water inundated their homes. Hajiji also handed assistance to the victims consisting of food stuff and cash.

He also advised people, particularly those in low lying and flood-prone areas to take extra precautions in view of the on-going bad weather.

Accompanying the Chief Minister were Minister of Community Development and People's Wellbeing Datuk Shahelmei Yahya, State Secretary Datuk Seri Safar Untong as well as the three assemblymen in Kota Belud, namely Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak (Usukan), Fairuz Renddan (Pintasan) and Mohd Arsad Bistari (Tempasuk). - ends



Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor (sitting front row third from left) and entourage listening to the briefing on the flood situation in Kota Belud during his visit to Dewan Tun Said on Monday