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Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi visiting the site of the landslide in the Sungai Ruil Orang Asli settlement in Cameron Highlands yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

## CAMERON HIGHLANDS LANDSLIDE

# SLOPE REPAIRS TO BE EXPEDITED

Fast-tracking procedures will comply with Finance Ministry rules, says Zahid

### CAMERON HIGHLANDS

**T**HE Rural and Regional Development Ministry will shorten the procurement period to repair the slope at the Orang Asli settlement in Sungai Ruil, Tanah Rata near here, which was hit by a landslide on Oct 12.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said repairs to the slope were expected to take two years at a cost of RM3 million.

“Since the period for the design and procurement, as well as completion, is too long, we will obtain approval to shorten the procurement period with methods ap-

proved by the Finance Ministry,” he said after visiting the site yesterday.

Earlier, Zahid, who is also rural and regional development minister, visited Dewan Kampung Orang Asli Sungai Ruil, where the 88 Orang Asli villagers from 17 families affected by the landslide were being sheltered.

The landslide was believed to have been caused by broken underground pipes and frequent heavy rain. Six houses and three motorcycles were damaged, and

residents were ordered to vacate their homes.

Zahid said the Orang Asli Development Department would bear the cost to rent nearby Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) quarters to house the 17 Orang Asli families from next month.

TNB had agreed to lease the quarters for RM500 per unit and waive the three-month rent deposit, said Zahid, adding that the families would stay at the quarters until slope repairs were completed. **Bernama**