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Rescued hiker recounts two-week ordeal without food, water

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IPOH: The woman hiker Jaslinda Saludin, 49, who was found safe after going missing for 14 days during a hike at Gunung Batu Putih near Tapah, recounted how she survived in the forest without carrying any food and water.

She shared how she scrounged up water from natural sources in the forest, including water from pitcher plants, to ensure her survival throughout her two-week ordeal.

"I had no food, I didn't eat for two weeks.

"I drank water... dark water, brown water, water from pitcher plants.

"So let's all be grateful to be alive," she said in a short 32-second video shared on social media.

Jaslinda was found by Orang Asli villager Nazri Bah Eng near Kampung Lubuk Gaharu, Pos Musoh, Tapah, at around 5pm on Saturday, and was later taken to Tapah Hospital for treatment.

In another video, Jaslinda shared how she repeatedly fell and struggled to survive each day in the forest after she had gone missing on May 24.

Meanwhile, Jaslinda's husband Haszman Othman expressed his gratitude to all parties involved in the search and rescue (SAR) operation.

Haszman, 61, said the success of the operation was the result of close cooperation among various agencies, including the police, Fire



A family member comforts Jaslinda as the latter is being sent for treatment upon arrival at Tapah Hospital. — Bernama photos

and Rescue Department (Bomba), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), statutory bodies and the Orang Asli community.

"I would like to thank everyone involved for their excellent cooperation throughout the operation," he told reporters when met at the Emergency and Trauma Unit of Tapah Hospital.

Haszman also expressed appreciation to Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) for providing accommodation and support to his family throughout the 14-day SAR operation.

Asked about Jaslinda's condition after she was found, Haszman described his wife as a resilient and strong individual.

"I know my wife. I know she is strong," he said.

According to Bomba Perak

Operations Division assistant director Sabarodzi Nor Ahmad, Jaslinda sustained several minor injuries, including to her head, after falling multiple times while trying to find her way out of the forest.

"She also suffered insect bites during her time in the forest," he told reporters at the hospital.

Based on information provided by Jaslinda to the rescuers, she fell several times while navigating the difficult terrains, including near river areas and from heights of about 5m and 3m, but managed to continue her journey each time.

"Alhamdulillah (Praise be for Allah), she is in stable condition and sustained only minor injuries," said Sabarodzi. — Bernama