

Headline	Daunting task to rebuild lives of Pendang flood victims		
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## REPLACING DAMAGED FURNITURE

# Daunting task to rebuild lives of Pendang flood victims

**PENDANG:** The watermarks left by floodwaters that inundated Kampung Banggol Besi for nearly a month last year are still visible on the walls of affected homes here.

For Nor Salawati Sabu @ Bakar, 37, they signify her family's struggle to rebuild life in the aftermath the worst *banjir termenung*, or stagnant flood, that hit the village in October.

"We are still sleeping on the floor. It will take some time for us to raise money to buy new bed frames and other furniture damaged by the floodwaters," the mother of six said while staring at a padi irrigation canal that flows right in front of the house.

Rebuilding life proved to be a daunting task for this family as Salawati's husband, who earns about RM1,000 a month working as a shop assistant, is also supporting his ailing father.

"My father-in-law Said Saad, 68, was diagnosed with nasal cancer two years ago.

"He had completed his chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment but last year he was diagnosed with blood cancer.

"He is currently undergoing another round of chemotherapy at Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital in Alor Star," she said while attending to her father-in-law, who is

lying on a stainless-steel bed frame — one of the few furnitures spared from damage by the floodwaters.

Salawati said last October's floods, which forced them to seek shelter at a flood relief centre for 24 days, had caused extensive damage to the house and their belongings.

"In the previous years, we usually spend about one week to 10 days at the most at the relief centre, but last October was the longest stay for us," she said.

Her family was among 147 flood evacuees from 36 families in the village who were evacuated to the relief centre located in Tanah Merah here.

Besides being provided meals and other necessities at the relief centre, Salawati said they received RM100 in cash aid from Sungai Tiang assemblyman Datuk Suraya Yaacob, plus RM100 cash assistance from Tenaga Nasional Bhd.

The Pendang district office also provided affected families with food baskets upon returning home from the relief centre.

"It will cost us several thousand ringgit to buy new bed frames, wardrobes, replace the doors and other belongings damaged by the floodwaters, so we will have to wait much longer," she said.

Her neighbour, Ani Zuliana



Norsalawati Sabu @ Bakar cleaning her house in Kampung Banggol Besi, Pendang yesterday. PIC BY LUQMAN HAKIM ZUBIR

Mehat, 41, said an additional aid from the government would be very much welcomed.

"Most of our belongings were damaged due to the prolonged flood.

"My husband works as a lorry driver, it will take sometimes for us to raise enough money to replace the damaged furniture and belongings," she said.

State Welfare, Family and Community Development Committee chairman Datuk Halimatun Shaadiah Saad said an application to seek cash aid for flood victims in Pendang and Baling had been submitted to the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma).

"We have discussed this matter with the Pendang and Baling dis-

trict officers during the recent state executive council meeting.

"We were informed that an application for cash aid for flood victims in Pendang and Baling districts had been submitted to Nadma.

"It will take some time for the application to be processed and we hope the affected families can be patient," she said.