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Households affected by quakes to receive aid

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ISKANDAR PUTERI: The Johor government will provide aid to 62 households in Segamat affected by a recent series of minor earthquakes, with a maximum allocation of RM3,000 per family.

Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi said the assistance will be delivered with the support of the federal government through the National Disaster Management Agency.

He said according to a report from the Segamat District Disaster Management Committee, a total of 62 homes, two *surau* and nine government premises were reported to have sustained damage.

"After the first tremor on Aug 24, the Segamat district officer mobilised all agencies, village heads and community leaders to conduct an immediate assessment. The damage was further evaluated through a special meeting of the committee.

"The state government is aware that the heaviest burden is borne by the families whose homes have been damaged," he said during the state legislative assembly sitting, in response to eight assemblymen's questions regarding the disaster.

He also said a technical assessment by the Public Works Department and local authorities confirmed all the government buildings remain safe for use.

He added that essential facilities, including those operated by Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Petronas, Rambah SAJ and the Johor Water Regulatory Body were also inspected, confirming that all systems and basic utilities were functioning normally.

He said the state government is focusing on several short-term key initiatives, such as activating a 24-hour disaster operations room with security and technical agencies, disseminating public awareness announcements, developing standard operating procedures and implementing a community disaster risk management programme, which would also be extended to schools and communities by the end of October.

"Six existing seismology stations in Johor will be upgraded and two additional stations will be constructed, following the RM3 million funding approved by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi."

– Bernama