

All in a day's work to build single mum a home

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KUALA LIPIS: After living in a tent and garage for more than three weeks, 46-year-old Zalmah Sani and her six children can now heave a sigh of relief as a team of volunteers from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) built a temporary home for them at Kampung Aur Gading here in just a single day.

The wooden home was built using pre-fabricated components brought from UMP's Kuantan campus.

"It provides a more comfortable shelter for us while waiting for the permanent settlement for flood victims to be completed in three months," said the single mother, who also cares for her 86-year-old mother, Samsiah Jambul.

Zalmah said she had turned the garage into a temporary shelter as her family could not afford to rebuild their semi-wooden house, which was wrecked by the floods that struck the village last month.

"We were fortunate that the authorities and other donors got us a tent and gave us cash, food and other items," said Zalmah, who taps rubber to support her family after her husband died 10 years ago.

After her family's plight was highlighted by the media, it caught the attention of Tengku Mahkota of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, who visited them and other victims in Kampung Aur Gading recently.

Kampung Aur Gading village head Abu Hanifah Sulaiman, 49, said 65 families in the village were affected



Zalmah Sani (left) and her mother, Samsiah Jambul, watching as Prof Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (right) and volunteers construct a temporary home in Kampung Air Gading, Kuala Lipis, yesterday. Pic by Fazli Ahmad

by the floods.

He said 32 homes were damaged while another eight were swept away by the currents.

"Those who lost their homes were given a tent as a temporary shelter while waiting for their new homes to be completed."

UMP Vice-Chancellor Professor

Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the university's civil engineering team took a week and RM7,000 to complete the pre-fabricated parts before transporting them to Kampung Aur Gading on Tuesday.

He said UMP had the expertise to build temporary and permanent shelters using pre-fabricated parts

or disused shipping containers.

"We can build the units with an allocation from the government or contributions from the private sector and individuals," he said.

Those interested in sponsoring construction can contact UMP, which has set up a *waqaf* account for the project.