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Insure flood victims, says vice-chancellor

PUTRAJAYA: The Government should introduce an insurance scheme for flood victims to help Malaysians get back on their feet after suffering through such a disaster.

Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohamed Mustafa Ishak said this was an important matter which should be considered in flood management.

He said that there had been cases

where victims suffered through two major floods and ended up with a total loss twice over.

"Under a normal scheme, insurance companies will not compensate flood victims since it is a natural disaster.

"There should be a move to introduce a scheme so that the victims can get some compensation," he added.

Dr Mohamed Mustafa, who earlier presented a resolution by the Flood

Management Workshop to the National Security Council (NSC) here, also highlighted the need for better coordination between the council and NGOs that set out to provide aid.

He said the lack of coordination made it difficult for NGOs to bring aid where it was most needed, thus adding to the myriad of challenges that come with floods.

Other points in the resolution include the creation of a data man-

agement system and more systematic communication, raising public awareness and changing attitude on proper drainage and the formation of a national or state action committee to coordinate between all agencies involved in flood relief.

The resolution was the product of a two-day workshop late last year, jointly-organised by the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority, the NSC, UUM and Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UMP).