

Government to relocate Kinabatangan residents

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KOTA KINABALU: Some 500 families of the five flood prone villages in the Kinabatangan will be resettled on higher grounds permanently.

The new resettlement areas, some three to four kilometers from their present villages would be their new villages.

State Secretary Datuk KY Mustafa

who is also the State Natural Disaster Relief Committee chairman said the government had identified five sites for the villagers to move to.

Speaking to reporters at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday, Mustafa said that he had visited three of the sites.

"They are located at higher

grounds so the next time it floods (in their present villages), we don't have to worry about the safety of the villagers anymore," he said.

He also said that the residents have agreed to the resettlement programme offered by the government.

The state government through the Rural Development Minister would

fund the building of the houses in the new villages, he added.

Meanwhile, Mustafa said he would be visiting the affected areas at Jalan Marak Parak in Kota Marudu today before heading for Kinabatangan.

"The floodwaters have subsided in Kota Marudu," he said. — *Jenne Lajiun*