

Top party leaders fly in to the east coast

PETALING JAYA: The impassable roads in flood-hit areas in the east coast states have hindered the relief efforts by MCA to send essential items to the victims there, says party president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

He said this was the party's biggest challenge in the relief mission, adding that the members of the MCA's Crisis Relief Squad (CRSM) were relying on helicopters to reach the victims.

"We are very concerned about them, the situation there is not getting any better because it is still raining.

"The victims' health and safety are our utmost priority," said Liow.

MCA deputy president Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong assured that food and necessities would be distributed to the victims in stages as soon as possible.

"We understand the urgency of them needing the items and we are speeding up the process and we are seeking ways to overcome the problem. Please be patient," he said, adding that the fastest mode to transport the goods was by helicopter, but such transport had limited space.

As an alternative, Dr Wee said the party is also trying to send the items by road although many of them were flooded.

Yesterday, Liow and Dr Wee flew to the east

coast in two helicopters from the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang at 10am, bringing with them the first batch of relief items of 300 food packs containing drinking water, biscuits and bread.

They also visited several badly-hit areas in Kelantan's Gua Musang, Kuala Krai, Kota Baru as well as Terengganu's Kemaman.

Joining them were MCA vice-president Datuk Dr Hou Kok Chung, who is also Kelantan MCA chairman, and CRSM chief Datuk Lua Choon Hann.

MCA has also established the CRSM East Coast Flood Relief Fund to collect donations for the flood victims. The people can send in their donations in the form of monetary contributions or essential items.

Contact 03-2203 3979/78/71 or e-mail xilas@mca.org.my, or log on to the CRSM HQ Facebook page.

Meanwhile, Weststar Group of Companies, whose subsidiary operates the helicopter carrying Liow and Dr Wee, said six tonnes of food were flown to Kelantan in several missions this week as part of their social responsibility.