

Johor Awaits MKAA Guidelines To Deal With Drowning Cases

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BATU PAHAT, Jan 7 (Bernama) -- Johor is awaiting for guidelines issued by the Water Activities Safety Council (MKAA) before implementing regulations to deal with drowning cases in the state.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the state government welcomed the federal government's move to set up the council which would enhance safety precaution efforts during recreational water activities.

"In addition, it can also coordinate the installation of warning signs at the beach and other water recreation centres," he told reporters here today.

He was commenting on the Cabinet meeting yesterday which approved the setting up of the MKAA which would be chaired by Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister, Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan.

Yesterday, Abdul Rahman said the establishment of the KAA was expected to help reduce drowning cases with an increase public awareness on the importance of water safety.

According the Department of Statistics, the average number of deaths due to drowning yearly from 2009 till 2013 was 596, and an analysis of the data showed on average two people died daily due to drowning.

The locations with the highest number of casualties were rivers and irrigation canals at 57 per cent, followed by beaches (25 per cent) and lakes and mining ponds (12 per cent) said Abdul Rahman.

Children formed the highest number of casualties at almost 50 per cent.

In Johor alone, last year, the State Fire and Rescue Department received 26 cases of drowning in which 28 died, five were injured and eight others were rescued.

The drowning locations were in rivers (11 cases with 14 deaths), sea (10 cases with eight deaths) and lakes/ mines (five cases with six deaths).

During the school holidays last year, there were three drowning cases involving eight deaths in Johor.