

KERATAN AKHBAR

NAMA AKHBAR: NEW SRAITS TIMES (STORY OF THE DAY)

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SPECIAL PANEL

CABINET PAPER ON WATER ACCIDENTS BEING DRAFTED

It will be drawn up by Niosh, says Zahid

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A CABINET paper on the setting up of a special committee tasked to address water accidents, including drownings, is being drafted.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the paper would be drawn up by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (Niosh), which is chaired by Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye.

"Niosh, chaired by Lee, had proposed for a special committee to be set up to look into (mitigating) water accidents.

"I have asked Niosh, which is under the Human Resources Ministry, to prepare a cabinet paper, for the matter to be discussed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and cabinet members.

"We will find a solution (to end water accidents).

"This concerns the safety of beachgoers, not only in the east coast, but at all beaches," he said after the soft launch of the International Exhibition on National Security Asia 2018 here yesterday.

He said those at risk of encountering water accidents, including anglers, should be taken into account.

"I hope that matters concerning them (anglers) would also be included in the cabinet paper."

Selangor Fire and Rescue De-

partment director Azmi Osman said to date, 12 people had drowned in the state this year.

The latest incident occurred on Monday evening when eight people were swept away by strong currents, believed to be triggered by a flash flood, as they were fishing at Sungai Gasi.

"Last year, 24 drowning cases were reported. Only three deaths were recorded in February last year," he said yesterday.

Azmi urged the public to be careful when swimming in rivers or when taking part in water-related activities.

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