

Hence there is no need to mobilise firefighters from across the country to help flood victims in the affected states, she said.

“Even now we are still freezing leave of fire personnel and officers until March, but we are giving exemptions to certain groups such as (for members) in Sabah and Sarawak who are celebrating Christmas,” she said.

A helicopter was also stationed at the East Region Fire and Rescue Academy for use during floods in the East Coast.

Zuraida added, they planned to add eight more helicopter assets including an ambulance helicopter (EMS) equipped with complete emergency medical equipment like an ambulance, next year.

“The government will review all helicopter services needed by government agencies, including the Civil Defence Force and the police.

“There is possibility to allow Russian companies to open a helicopter manufacturing hub in Malaysia and that’s where we can benefit by getting lower purchase prices and service charges for helicopters,” she said. — Bernama