Dad recounts vain rescue bid

KUALA LUMPUR: Raja Hazlan Raja Hussin was standing next to his son, Raja Muhammad Irfan, when a landslide hit their double-storey government quarters in Jalan Belfield, Kampung Attap, here on Wednesday night.

Hazlan, a chief clerk at federal police headquarters in Bukit Aman said one minute he was standing near his son, the next thing he knew the boy was buried under tonnes of mud.

"I cried for help and began digging with my bare hands, I was calling out his name," he said.

Hearing the commotion, Hazlan's neighbour also came to help and telephoned for the ambulance and the fire and rescue team.

Some 15 minutes later, they managed to pull Irfan out.

"His pulse was weak, but he was alive," said Hazlan.

The teenager was rushed to Hospital Kuala Lumpur.

However, he succumbed to his injuries about an hour later.

Irfan, the third of five siblings, was the only reported casualty of the downpour which lashed the Klang Valley on Wednesday evening and caused many to evacuate their homes due to flash floods.

Hazlan described Irfan, a Form One student of Methodist Boys' School, as a very soft-spoken and obedient boy.

"We told him to collect the clothes which were hanging in the backyard when the landslide occurred," the grief-stricken father said.

Irfan's body was taken to his mother's hometown in Kampung Belimbing, Tanah Merah in Kelantan for burial yesterday.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Ismail Omar offered his condolences to Hazlan and his family after handing them and seven other families, who were affected by the landslide, cash donations.

The affected families were yesterday evacuated to temporary quarters at the Police Training Centre in Jalan Semarak.

Civil Defence Department personnel heading for a house at Batu 11, Hulu Langat, where family members sought refuge on the roof at the height of the floods.

Flood victims collecting blankets and pillows distributed at Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Seral, Batu 11, Hulu Langat.