



Piles of wooden doors that were made for victims of the 2011 flood lie abandoned at the Royal Forest Department. By the time the doors were finished, they were no longer needed. PATTARAPONG CHATPATTARASILL

ILL-FATED RELIEF PROJECT

Forestry Dept opens door on knotty post-flood problem

APINYA WIPATAYOTIN

The Royal Forest Department will seek a cabinet decision on what to do with about 10,000 doors left unattended at the department because they couldn't be distributed to victims of the 2011 flood in time.

The department's deputy chief Ratchada Suriyakul Na Ayutthaya said the doors were supposed to be given for free to victims of the flood two years ago. However, they were not finished in time.

He said forestry department chief Suwit Rattanamanee asked for nine million baht from the government to make 10,000 doors to give away to people as part of a flood relief project.

A large number of requests came in from the public for the doors, Mr Ratchada said.

He said the department used

confiscated logs such as teak and wood with no commercial value to make the doors.

Mr Ratchada said the project ran into delays because the department lacked qualified staff to make the product.

Also, it took a long time before the department could secure an official permit to use the confiscated wood.

He insisted there was no corruption in the project. By the time the doors were finished, the public no longer needed them. To date, only 66 have been distributed.

Mr Ratchada said there are 7,666 doors at the department's headquarters at present, and a few thousands stored at the department's offices nationwide.

"The department will ask for a decision from the cabinet on how to deal with them. We need to change a regulation so we can give them out for other purposes, not just for flood relief," he said.