

FLOODS

Firemen work around the clock evacuating Kota Marudu villagers

KOTA MARUDU: Continuous rain since Tuesday night inundated 17 villages in the district and several areas in Sandakan.

Kota Marudu Fire and Rescue Department chief Ronnie Roger said 28 personnel from here, Kudat, Ranau and Kota Kinabalu were deployed to affected areas in the wee hours for rescue purposes.

"Our boats, which are meant for operation at the sea, cannot be used as the river here is

narrow. Some of the personnel had to piggyback villagers, especially young children and senior citizens, during the evacuation."

He said floodwaters depending on the affected low-lying areas was either at knee- or waist-level.

At press time, Ronnie said the rescue operation was still ongoing. As of 6pm, 2,784 people from 851 families affected by floods had been evacuated to 11 relief centres.

State Civil Defence Force director Colonel Muliadi Al-Hamdi said floods had affected 17 villages as of noon yesterday, compared with 13 on Tuesday night.

The Meteorology Department had warned of continuous moderate rain to persist at the west coast of Sabah, Kudat and Sandakan.

Water level at Sungai Bangon was at 8m as of 4pm, compared with 8.35m at noon but is still at the dangerous level.

Power supply was interrupted affecting 1,500 people from 55 villages here.

Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd, in a statement, said floodwaters had entered the substation yesterday morning and had to be shut down



A fireman evacuating a child in Kota Marudu yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

for safety reason. Twenty-one primary schools and a secondary school were closed, affecting 6,627 students and 605 teachers.

In **Sandakan**, 16 houses involving 60 villagers were affected but no evacuation was reported.

Two roads — Jalan Sungai Memanjang and Jalan Pamol — were submerged under 1m of floodwaters.

In **Kuala Terengganu**, the Fire and Rescue Department is prepared for action should floods hit Terengganu again following the yellow alert issued by the Meteorological Department on Tuesday.

State Fire and Rescue Department director Azlimin Mat Noor said leave for staff had been frozen starting yesterday.

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