

More than 500 stranded at school due to high waters

PITAS: More than 500 students and staff of SMK Pitas II were trapped for two days when the access road to the boarding school was submerged since Saturday.

Principal Abdul Hamid Ahmad said water had risen up to 1.5m.

"There are 446 students, 17 teachers and 10 wardens affected by the flood that hit the district. There is no schooling session today (yesterday) as we are waiting for the flood to subside."

Hamid said the school also faced water disruption and was relying on outside supply. While the school still had enough food supply, it might face a shortage if the flood situation did not improve, he added.

Teacher Mohd Farazi Abdul Razak said it was his first experience with

floods after teaching at the school for the past four years.

"I have to wade through floodwaters to get food supplies from the authorities."

Floods in the district, near Kudat, yesterday worsened, with the number of evacuation centres up from two on Sunday to six, yesterday. As at 6pm, 749 people from 11 villages were seeking shelter at the centres.

Two evacuation centres in Kota Marudu, also near Kudat, were closed at 10am yesterday, while 75 people in Paitan, Beluran, near Sandakan, were staying at another two evacuation centres.

Civil Defence Force state director Colonel Muliadi Al-Hamdi Ladin said the weather in Pitas and Beluran had also improved.



SMK Pitas II was closed yesterday due to floods that hit Pitas district in Sabah since Saturday. PIC BY LANO LAN