

Family members find it hard to stay connected

JOHOR BARU: Contact between family members separated by the floods has become increasingly difficult.

Floodwaters have damaged electricity points, making the charging of handphones impossible.

It is learnt that rescue operations have concentrated on moving those living in single-storey houses.

Those in double-storey houses are left on their own without water, electricity or food supplies.

Patricia, 28, from Kuala Lumpur, said she was extremely worried that she could no longer contact her parents in Taman Segar, Segamat, on the mobile phone.

She said when she last spoke to them at 2pm yesterday, her parents had said that the entire family of 10 would be walking to the evacuation centre in SM Seg Hwa, about a kilometre away.

"It seems the army had told them to evacuate if they wanted to save their lives. How will my four grandparents aged between 75 and 80 walk the distance," she asked.

According to Patricia, her family had been surviving the last two days on bread and biscuits given to them by their neighbour.

She added that there were still many people trapped in their double-storey homes, and with no help in sight.

"I feel so helpless because I can't do anything from here."

Another man, who identified himself as Pang, said that his wife and sister-in-law were stuck in Kota Tinggi.

"They said they had not seen any army or fire department rescue officials all this while. In the end, they paid some civilians with boats RM38 per head to be taken to higher ground," he added.