

Number of victims doubles

SUN 22/12/08

by Kimberley Lau
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: With a total of 55,538 flood victims in five states – Johor, Malacca, Negri Sembilan, Pahang and Kelantan – the flood situation has worsened in the peninsular yesterday.

The figure, provided by National Crisis Management and Disaster Bureau Director Che Moin Umar at 4.30pm, has more than doubled from Wednesday's 24,594 victims.

Johor, the worst-affected state, had 54,585 people sheltered in 274 relief centres yesterday, compared with 21,925 on Wednesday. A total of 12,533 families were affected.

In Malacca, the figures have also jumped from 2,534 to 6,802 people in 46 centres.

In Negri Sembilan, in which Rembau, Gemas, Tampin and Jempul are affected, the figure quadrupled from 135 to 582.

"In Kuala Rumpin and Kuantan in Pahang, there are 1,105 people in 18 relief centres while in Gua Musang, Kelantan, there are 542 people," said Che Moin.

In a statement, the Meteorological Department said the weather forecast is as was reported in *theSun* yesterday; with unpredictable heavy rainfall in Johor until today, while for Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang, the rain is expected to persist until Sunday.

In states located in the peninsular's west coast, the weather is expected to be cloudy with light drizzles in certain rural areas.

A source from the department said the current situation was due to the intense high pressure (Siberian High) that develops over Siberia and northern China during the northeast monsoon season.

"Air flows out from the Siberian high pressure system and becomes northeasterly wind



A bird's eye view of the flood situation in Segamat New Town yesterday.

as it blows across the South China Sea towards the equatorial Southeast Asia.

"The arrival of cold surges or monsoon surges are characterised by strengthening of northerly winds that will cause the intensification of convective activities in the South China Sea and bring heavy rainfall to Malaysia."

Bernama reports that while the level of rivers in most of Johor was dropping, flood waters in Kota Tinggi continued to rise.



This bus is resting on its side after losing its balance in the flood-hit Segamat.

Chartered copters ferry aid to victims

PETALING JAYA: DiGi Telecommunications Sdn Bhd chartered helicopters to airlift emergency supplies to flood victims in Segamat yesterday.

It budgeted RM500,000 for relief efforts, including purchases of daily necessities, transport costs, and free airtime for affected customers.

DiGi's Strategy and Corporate Affairs director Tunku Alizakri RM Alias said dry foods, fresh water, mats and blankets will be transported by land to Tangkak today and from there, by helicopter to relief centres.

TNB switches off 270 sub-stations

JOHOR BARU: Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) switched off 270 sub-stations in the state at 4pm yesterday. Johor TNB general manager (distribution) Mohammad Mokhtar Mohd Ali said Segamat district was the worst-hit with 167 sub-stations shut down.