

Johor floods claim five lives

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FIVE people have lost their lives to floods in Johor while the number of people moved to relief centres in the State has risen to 57,477.

Kota Tinggi is no longer passable to traffic when the areas surrounding it became inundated under 1.5m of water.

However, life is returning to normal in Segamat, which was badly hit, after the floodwaters receded.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said that Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had directed all federal and state agencies to coordinate their relief operations.

"The Prime Minister hopes that federal and state agencies will collaborate to ensure efficiency of the relief machinery to assist the victims," Najib said after visiting flood victims at Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Ping Ming in Kluang yesterday.

Najib said about 80 army boats and 16

helicopters belonging to the police and Fire and Rescue Services Department would be deployed in Johor.

Johor is also facing electricity and water disruption as Tenaga Nasional Berhad has shut down 270 substations and power to 15 water treatment plants in the State.

In Malacca, the number of people evacuated has increased to 7,103 as the flood situation continues to deteriorate.

They are housed at 19 evacuation centres in Batu Berendam, Tengker, Tiang Dua, Melaka Tengah, Kandang and Malim.

The towns of Jeli, Tanah Merah, Rantau Panjang and Gua Musang in Kelantan are also flooded.

The number of people from Gua Musang taking refuge at evacuation centres had reached 594.

In Pahang, the situation in flood stricken areas in Rompin, Maran and



END OF THE ROAD

A car stuck in floodwaters in Segamat

Kuantan has worsened and the number of people at evacuation centres increased to 1,960.

A Pahang Flood Operations Room spokesman said Rompin was badly affected with 1,273 people in shelters followed by Kuantan (505) and Maran (182).

Jalan Kuantan-Sg Lembing between Km24 and Km29 is still closed to all traffic as it is under one-metre of water.

The total number of flood victims at evacuation centres in Johor, Malacca, Kelantan and Pahang increased to 67,053 people. — Bernama



GETTING READY

Two brothers drying their school shoes after the flood waters in their area receded

Segamat shops looted

LOOTERS helped themselves to goods from several shops last night in Segamat.

The Courts Mammoth furniture and electrical retailer in Jalan Genuang had its glass door broken.

A supervisor said only expensive items like digital cameras were missing.

Shops selling cell phones nearby

were also broken into.

Many of the shops in the town were closed yesterday after floodwaters rose more than four feet.

Several organisations supplemented the aid given by the Government and other authorities by distributing bottled water, biscuits and other dry foods to the flood victims. — Bernama