

Hovercraft boost for relief efforts

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JOHOR BARU: Besides boats and helicopters, a hovercraft has been deployed to deliver supplies to areas cut off by the floods.

The hovercraft, which can carry half a tonne of supplies, is on loan to the Johor Baru Red Crescent Society from Malaysian-based watercraft manufacturer TFM Advanced Materials.

A team of 31 people, including 11 from Singapore Red Cross, left here for Muar yesterday with the hovercraft.

"We had also sent supplies to Kota Tinggi on Sunday," said Singapore Red Cross senior assistant director Kek Siew Kok.

"We are always ready to help. We have another 20 members on standby in Singapore should their services be required."

Johor Baru Red Crescent Society chairman Chong Ah Ng said items needed by flood victims included infant formula, diapers, sanitary pads, and foodstuff.

"We are very happy to have the hovercraft as it will help in



FAST AID: TFM Advanced Materials has provided the Johor Baru Red Crescent Society with a hovercraft to help in delivering food and other supplies to areas cut off by the floods.

our relief operations," he said.

While TFM Advanced Materials provided the hovercraft, Singaporean-based lifeboat and davit maintainer Technofibre is covering the opera-

tional costs.

Technofibre chief executive officer R. Ramesh said the hovercraft would make six trips daily for a week.

He noted that apart from

being able to carry half a tonne of supplies, the hovercraft had a pull capacity of one tonne.

"This means it can tug a boat of survivors up to a load of a tonne," he said.