

Second wave

Najib: Brace
for another
round of floods

STAR 29/12

KUANTAN: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants all government departments and agencies, including rescue teams, to brace themselves for a second wave of floods.

"If it doesn't occur, then thank God, but if it does, we must be in a state of readiness so that necessary operations can be carried out efficiently," he told reporters here yesterday.

Najib was commenting on the

Meteorological Department's report on Wednesday forecasting bad weather for Johor and south-eastern Pahang until Sunday, and continuous heavy rain for Malacca and Negri Sembilan for four more days which may result in further flooding.

He said this meant that all the relevant departments and agencies including those monitoring the weather, district and village

> TURN TO PAGE 14

Strong winds and rough seas likely until Monday

STAR 29/12

> FROM PAGE 1

administrations, agencies disseminating the news, military personnel, policemen and firemen must be in a state of alertness to ensure the safety of lives and property.

"Whatever operations we carry out must be done efficiently so that we can save lives and property where possible," he said.

The department said strong north-easterly winds of 50kph to 60kph and rough seas with waves up to 4.5m over coastal waters in the east coast of the peninsula, and in Sarawak and West Sabah were expected to persist until Monday.

The condition is dangerous to all shipping activities, including fishing and ferry services, and coastal activities, the department warned in its noon weather update yesterday.

It also issued a warning of

widespread thunderstorms in the coastal waters of Sarawak and Sabah.

Meanwhile, officers in charge of the dams in central Johor have expressed fear that it may take longer for the situation in flood-hit Batu Pahat to return to normal.

One officer said that all the three dams - Bekok, Sembrong and Machap in Simpang Renggam - were already overflowing, and they were powerless to do anything.

"Now everything will depend on nature and if the rains continue, the situation may worsen," he said.

Batu Pahat has remained on alert since Johor was hit by floods on Dec 19.

A check at the Bekok Dam here showed that the water had reached the spill-over level of 18.77m as at noon yesterday, which was more than 1m higher than its maximum level of 17.5m. - Bernama