

# Families evacuated as water levels rise again

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**KOTA TINGGI:** More than 80 families from Kampung Berangan and Kampung Batu 25 were evacuated after heavy rain caused water levels to rise to waist level.

The families, clearly frustrated and upset as they had just finished cleaning their homes from the previous flood that hit them three weeks ago, initially refused to move to flood relief centres.

It took two state executive councillors, Datuk Halimah Sadique and Datuk Baderi Dasuki, to persuade them to leave their homes. The evacuation operation was still going on at 8pm yesterday.

Kampung Berangan resident Imran Buhari, 43, said the floodwaters started to rise at about 12.30pm and reached the danger level at 3pm.

"It has not stopped raining for 24 hours," he said, adding that he



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placed most of his possessions near the ceiling to prevent them from being damaged by the floodwater.

"I have not even finished cleaning up and my house is flooded again," he lamented.

His neighbour Saadiah Hassim, 39, was equally upset.

"It took me a week to clean up the

mud, and now the house is filled with water again," said the housewife.

Saripah Selamat, 35, refused to move to a relief centre as she feared someone might break into her house.

"Some of my neighbours' homes were almost broken into the past few days," she said, adding that she would be staying at her grandfather's house in the same village.

Meanwhile, a medical team comprising 21 doctors and nurses returning after treating people from an orang asli village in Mersing were stranded after a bridge was cut off due to rising floodwaters.

Rescue boats were later sent to bring them out.

State Fire and Rescue Department director Yusof Muhamad said the department had been on alert, especially with the heavy rains since Wednesday.

At press time, there were some 2,200 flood victims in 30 evacuation centres statewide.



**Steady does it:** Fire and Rescue personnel using a boat to ferry residents of Kampung Batu 25, Kota Tinggi, to safety yesterday.