

More evacuees return home

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FLOOD SITUATION IN JOHOR AND PAHANG IMPROVES WITH BETTER WEATHER

KUALA LUMPUR: The flood situation in Johor and Pahang improved further yesterday, as the weather cleared, allowing more victims to return home.

In Johor Baru, 79,888 people were still at 237 relief centres in the morning, compared with 80,755 people at 241 centres the previous night.

Those still at relief centres were in Batu Pahat (44,234), Kota Tinggi (14,121), Kluang (5,766), Mersing (4,485), South Johor Baru (2,944), Segamat (4,593), Muar (1,108), Pontian (2,438) and Johor Baru Utara (199), Bernama reports.

A spokesman from the Johor police contingent flood operations room said the victims were allowed to return home because of the better weather.

The situation in Kota Tinggi is almost back to normal.

The town was inundated with water when Sungai Johor burst its banks causing it to be cut off from Johor Baru and Mersing since last Friday.

Meanwhile, floods in the Rompin district, Pahang, improved further with three more evacuation centres

PM receives donations for flood victims

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday received donations from TSR Capital Bhd, comprising rice, canned sardines and blankets for flood victims in Johor.

The contributions were presented by TSR Capital managing director Tengku Datuk Mustapha Tengku Mohamed at the Prime Minister's Office here.

A total of 100 tonnes of rice, 55,200 tins of sardines and 4,000 pieces of blanket would be sent to the flood victims. - Bernama

closed yesterday morning.

A spokesman at the Pahang police contingent flood operations room said only six relief centres were still open to provide shelter for victims from six villages.

"Until now, 1,741 people from 321 families are at the evacuation centres, compared with 1,836 people last (Tuesday) night," he added.

Meanwhile, Ambank Group

chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim assured flood victims of speedy payment on insurance claims submitted by AmAssurance clients affected by the floods.

In a statement yesterday, he said most of those affected by the first wave of floods in Johor, which happened on Dec 19, have received their payments.

In KOTA KINABALU, the situation at Pitas, the district worst affected by the flood since it hit Sabah last week, has improved with only one relief centre at SK Pekan Pitas II.

Pitas District Officer Sapdin Ibrahim said only a few families remained at the shelter due to serious damage of their houses and shortage of food in their villages.

More than 900 people of the 1,398 evacuees from 44 villages, who were sheltered at four relief centres, returned home on Tuesday.



With floodwater receding, shop owners in Kota Tinggi begin to clean up their premises.

100% hike in prices of greens

Press Digest

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JOHOR state Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Committee chairman Datuk K.S. Balakrishnan said the state has to import vegetables from China and Thailand following a 80% drop in production as a result of the floods, causing the price of greens to go up by 100%-150%.

He also expected the price of fish to go up as the state has to import it from

Thailand and Indonesia, to meet a 30% shortfall in supply in the wake of the floods, *Sin Chew Daily* reported yesterday.

Speaking after a briefing by farmers and seafood suppliers in Johor Baru on Tuesday, Balakrishnan said it would take 20 to 40 days for the prices and supply of the affected items to return to normal. He said even with imports from China and Thailand, the state still has to bring in greens from other states to overcome the severe shortage.

On export of greens to Singapore, Balakrishnan said there is nothing for many the farmers to deliver to the republic as their farms are destroyed by floods.