



No through road: The scene at the 28th kilometre of the North-South Expressway near the Jitra-Malau exit in Kedah, which was closed to light vehicles yesterday because of floods. A total of 19,000 people have been evacuated as Kedah and Perlis cope with the devastation caused by heavy rain since Sunday. — G.C. TAN / The Star

Stranded

Kedah and Perlis scramble to send aid to 19,000 hit by floodwaters

A FAMILY mourns the death of a 13-year-old; a 64-year-old German woman is reported missing and some 19,000 lives are turned upside down as the floods in Kedah and Perlis cause devastation.

With road and rail links cut because of the floods, both states scrambled to send aid to stranded victims. In one instance, six men sought refuge on a tree because of the rising waters.

Rescue teams have been sent to the affected areas and steps taken to make sure victims receive all the help they need.

Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Md Isa Sabu described the floods as "really bad" and its damage

worse than the big flood of 2005 when the entire state was flooded.

Desperate for some kind of transportation, Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, the Tambun Tulang assemblyman, flagged down tractors, backhoes and lorries to ask for help to ferry the victims out of their houses.

In Kelantan, another RM50,000 worth of basic necessities will be provided to those staying in relief centres after the first RM100,000 worth of items ran out.

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19,000 victims evacuated

Perlis and Kedah grapple with most severe floods since 2005

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ALOR SETAR: The rain has stopped but the pain continues as Kedah and Perlis grapple with some 19,000 flood evacuees in a situation more severe than the big flood of 2005.

A 13-year-old boy, Mohd Zaki, drowned after he was swept away by floodwaters while catching fish at Kampung Charok Bongor, near Kuala Nerang, Kedah, at 5pm yesterday, said Padang Terap OCPD Deputy Supt Ku Yaacob Ku Hamad.

Kedah has moved some 15,000 people to relief centres this time compared to 11,700 victims in 2005.

Ridzuan Yahya, a spokesman from the state National Security Council, said the majority of evacuees were from Kubang Pasu (10,834), Padang Terap (3,478), Kota Setar (709) and Pokok Sena (488).

The North-South Expressway stretch from Km 28 near Jitra until Km 10.2 in Changlun is still closed to all traffic, both south and north-bound.

The Sultan Abdul Halim Airport was closed since 6pm yesterday. If the water recedes today, the airport will be reopened.

Floodwaters also caused the Royal Malaysia Air Force College in Kepala Batas to be in 1m-of water since Monday night.



Submerged road: Residents wading through floodwaters while a 4WD driver tries his luck in Jitra yesterday.

In **KANGAR**, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Md Isa Sabu said the floods that hit Perlis were worse than the one in 2005.

Padi fields were submerged in floodwater up to waist-level in some places, and some 11,000ha of padi fields damaged since the rain on Sunday.

Dr Md Isa told *The Star* that more than 4,000 people from 863 families were evacuated to 42 relief centres.

Indera Kayangan assemblyman Dr Por Choo Chor said Kampung Bakau was the worst-hit area with the water level at waist high.

Former menteri besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, the Tambun Tulang assemblyman, said the situation in Arau was really bad.

"I had to stop tractors, backhoes and lorries to seek assistance to get people out of their houses," he said.

In **PASIR MAS**, Kelantan, Bernama reported that some RM50,000 additional worth of basic necessities would be provided to flood victims in relief centres, after the RM100,000 worth of supplies ran out.

In **BANGKOK**, Thailand, hundreds of tourists including Malaysians were trapped in the Hat Yai district of Songkhla province as the district was still inundated with water between two and three metres deep.



Terrifying experience: Three of the six people hanging on to a tree in Kampung Lahar yesterday.

German woman swept away, six spend 16 hours on trees

JITRA: A 64-year-old German woman slipped and fell into floodwaters as she was leaving a house in Kampung Kerenjis Kota Giam here with her son and Malaysian daughter-in-law.

Police said Erna Fischer slipped and fell at 8.30pm on Monday. She has not been found yet.

Police have mounted a search for Fischer with the Fire and Rescue Department, Civil Defence Department and villagers, said Kubang Pasu OCPD Supt Sawaluddin Hamenuddin.

In another incident, six people had to spend 16 hours on trees as floodwaters threatened to sweep them away.

Johar Mat Saman, 50, his son Nor Asimi, 28, and nephew Mohd Rosidi Aziz, 17, endured the ordeal from 8pm on Monday until noon yesterday; as strong currents prevented the rescue team from reaching them at Kampung Lahar here.

His brother-in-law Baharom Omar, 54, and his two sons Mohd Izad, 24, and Mohd Izhat, 20, were swept away by the strong currents but managed to climb up another tree 50m away.

Baharom said that they were on their way to a relief centre after helping Johar carry his household items to the upper storey of their house in Kampung Lahar when the incident happened.

Meanwhile, housewife Rindu Rahayu Abdul Rahman, 25, from Kangar told *MStar Online* that it was terrifying to see floodwaters rushing through her house.

"It was like seeing the sea in front of my house. We did not manage to save any belongings except for the television and some small appliances," she said.

Rindu said flood victims were worried about food as supply was limited with all shops closed since yesterday.



On dry land: Umno Kedah liaison committee deputy chairman Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah (centre) chatting with Norazian Hashim, 38, (left) with her two-year-old daughter Nur Alisah Maisarah Azhar. Looking on is Nor Hasidah Abd Mutalib, 29, (right) cradling her two-year-old daughter Nur Zawani Mohd Nasir at the relief centre at SK Malau in Jitra, Kedah, yesterday.



Rescue mission: A rescuer taking a boat through the floodwaters in Jitra yesterday.

Watery misery

Folks in Kedah and Perlis cope with the devastation caused by the flood after days of torrential rain



Flood casualty: New cars partially submerged at the compound of a Perodua car dealer's showroom in Jitra yesterday.



Hitching a ride: Two youths sitting on a submerged car at Jalan Tan Sri Osman Aroff in Jitra yesterday.



Precious pet: Nurul Hasanah Rasli, 18, handing her cat to her 10-year-old nephew Mohd Faizol Izat Abdul Aziz to be taken to a safer place after their home at Kampung Bukit Keteri in Perlis was flooded yesterday. — Bernama



Out of business: A motor workshop owner, together with a dog, sitting outside his shop in Jitra yesterday.