



## Northern flood disaster

# Help them

**ALOR STAR:** The number of flood evacuees in the four affected districts here remained high yesterday, with Kota Setar being the hardest hit. Its number increased by more than 2,000 from Friday. In Perlis, the people were warned to be prepared for a possible

second wave of floods.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak called on all agencies to give their all to alleviate the suffering of flood victims in Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Terengganu.

Sultan of Kedah Sultan Abdul Halim

Mu'adzam Shah expressed sadness at the plight of those affected by the floods, the worst in the state in recent years. He urged all political parties, whatever their affiliation, to help those affected.

■ REPORTS: P6-11

## AID POURS IN

Drinking water from Syabas is brought in by rail yesterday, while in Pendang, packs of rice are prepared for distribution to relief centres. — Pictures by Shahrizal Md Noor



# Do everything possible for flood victims, says PM

## 'It's duty of Kedah to help'

PAGOH: Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the Kedah government should not wash its hands of the responsibility of helping flood victims.

He said the duty to help these people fell on all parties, including the state and federal governments.

"In matters under the purview of the state government, like providing fresh water supply, they should be responsible."

He was commenting on allegations that the Kedah state government had failed to provide sufficient water to the flood victims which necessitated its import from Perak.

Muhyiddin said this after opening the Johor region community colleges programme at the Pagoh Community College.

Muhyiddin, who will visit the affected areas in Kedah today, said the Federal Government would consider providing assistance to farmers affected by the floods.

On the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia and Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia examinations, he said the status quo remained.

"There are still two weeks before the examinations begin, so the floods may have receded by then.

"However, according to the Meteorological Department, there may be a second wave of rain, so if that happens, then we will have to find an alternative measure."

## 200 villagers upset over lack of aid

JITRA: Some 200 flood victims in Kampung Pulau Timbul near here claimed they have been discriminated against by the Pas state government.

A villager, Saad Talib, 49, said the state government had offered them little help since their village was inundated with water on Tuesday.

"Residents from a nearby village in Kampung Raja get more help and it is obvious because they are all supporters of Pas," he said when met at the village, with about 240 residents.

Meanwhile, Kubang Pasu MP Datuk Mohd Johari Baharom, who is also deputy agriculture and agro-based industry minister, expressed disappointment over the discriminatory practice.

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ALOR STAR: Spare no effort to help the flood victims.

That is the call from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to all federal agencies to give their all to alleviate the sufferings of flood victims in Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Terengganu.

He also said relief must reach the flood victims fast.

"Please help ease their sufferings. Do not miss out on anyone," he said in a message conveyed by his political secretary Datuk Shahlan Ismail when the latter visited flood

victims in Kampung Pulau Timbul, near Jitra, about 40km from here yesterday.

About 240 people from 80 families are affected. Help for them came mostly from federal agencies. Their houses have been in knee-deep water since Sunday.

Najib, despite being warded in hospital for minor ulcer and gastritis, said he was very concerned with the welfare and safety of flood victims.

"We will help to lessen the ordeal of the flood evacuees and my top priority is their health and safety."

Shahlan said Najib, who is responding well to treatment and keeping close tabs on the flood situation, urged those af-

ected to be strong despite their predicament.

"Please be strong despite the challenges. I also pray with you so that the situation would return to normal fast."

A spokesman for the National Security Council operations centre here said the number of flood evacuees in the four affected districts was 33,350 yesterday compared with 39,800 people the previous day.

However, Kota Setar remained the hardest hit of the four districts in Kedah with the number of evacuees rising to 18,926 yesterday from 16,376 on Friday.

The number of evacuees in Kubang Pasu district has gone down to 12,300 yesterday

compared with 21,100 the previous day.

The number of flood victims in Pokok Sena district has also decreased to 1,500 people, Pendang has 240 victims and Padang Terap, 350.

The high tides which started yesterday and expected to last until mid-week, are preventing floodwaters from going in to the sea.

Meanwhile, although Perlis has been enjoying clear and sunny skies with calm winds over the past two days, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Md Isa Sabu warned the people to be prepared for a possible second wave of floods, considering the wet outlook forecast by the Meteorological Department for the

next few days.

He said the north-east monsoon weather which continues until next month, would see regular bouts of intermittent and heavy rains.

The situation in Perlis has improved tremendously.

As at 3pm yesterday, the number of evacuees was about 9,500 people from 1,316 families.

They are mostly staying in low-lying areas. On Friday, the number of flood evacuees was about 12,000 people.

Only 38 flood relief centres remained with 34 of them in Kangar and the remaining in Arau.

The last two relief centres in Padang Besar were closed yesterday.

## Sultan expresses grief over subjects' plight

ALOR STAR: Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah has expressed sadness over the plight of his subjects affected by the floods, the worst in Kedah in recent years.

He urged all parties, irrespective of their political affiliations, to give their all to alleviate the flood victims' plight.

"I am very sad over the plight faced by the victims and I urge all to put aside their political differences for the good of everyone," he said in his speech after being briefed on the flood situation in Kedah at Wisma Darul Aman here yesterday.

Earlier, Sultan Abdul Halim and Sultanah Haminah Hamidun visited flood evacuees at Suka Menanti Stadium, a popular sports area which has been turned into a flood relief centre since the major flood swept through many parts of Kedah, including Kota Setar district last Sunday.

The royal couple spent about 45 minutes at the stadium, the biggest relief centre in Kota Setar district, the hardest-hit among five flooded districts in Kedah, which houses 2,436 flood victims from 670 families.

Accompanying them were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak, the sultan's youngest daughter and Yayasan Sultanah Bahiyah chairman Datuk Seri Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz and Kedah Umno liaison deputy chairman Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah.

Sultan Abdul Halim also urged federal and state agencies as well as corporate bodies and individuals to help lessen the flood victims' ordeal.

"We must all do our bit to help the flood victims. I am very sad the floods have affected the people of this beloved state, but I believe there is a hikmah (wisdom) in this.

"Let us be grateful to Allah for all that we have been blessed with, and what is important for us now is to reflect and learn from this calamity."

He later announced a RM500,000 contribution from the state zakat (tithe) collection and made a personal contribution of RM100,000 for the flood victims.

At the event, a good Samaritan donated RM200,000 to help the flood victims. His contribution was channelled through the foundation.



Cah Abdillah, 100, one of the flood evacuees at the Suka Menanti Stadium greeting Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah when he visited the relief centre yesterday. — Bernama picture



Kangar residents taking advantage of the flooded Sungai Perlis to cast their fishing lines and nets. — Picture by Mohd Kamil Rahim



Newlyweds Noor Asrolizham Zakaria and Zuhainy Zulkifli find that a wheelbarrow works perfectly for wading through the floodwaters in Langgar, Kedah, yesterday. — Picture by Ramdzan Masiam



Two men use a fibreglass container to save their dogs from the rising floodwaters. — Picture by Shahrizal Md Noor



Villagers in Kampung Pulau Timbul, Jitra, Kedah, now find that a tractor also serves as a good form of transport. — Picture by Syaharim Abidin



Abidin Hassan and his son, Muhammad Sadiq Safwan, 4, (right), and nephew Muhammad Labid, 4, 'paddle' their way through a flooded padi field in Kampung Batu Hampar in Kangar, Perlis, on a makeshift raft. — Picture by Mohd Kamil Rahim