

Web portal offers live updates on floods

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KUALA LUMPUR: The National Security Council (NSC) in Terengganu has launched a web portal that will allow the public to monitor floods in the state.

The state's NSC assistant secretary, Ahmad Reza Arshad, said the portal (www.etindakan.terengganu.gov.my) would carry crucial information such as rainfall patterns and increases in water levels at major rivers.

"Information on water levels will be fed live to the portal by electronic sensors placed at strategic locations

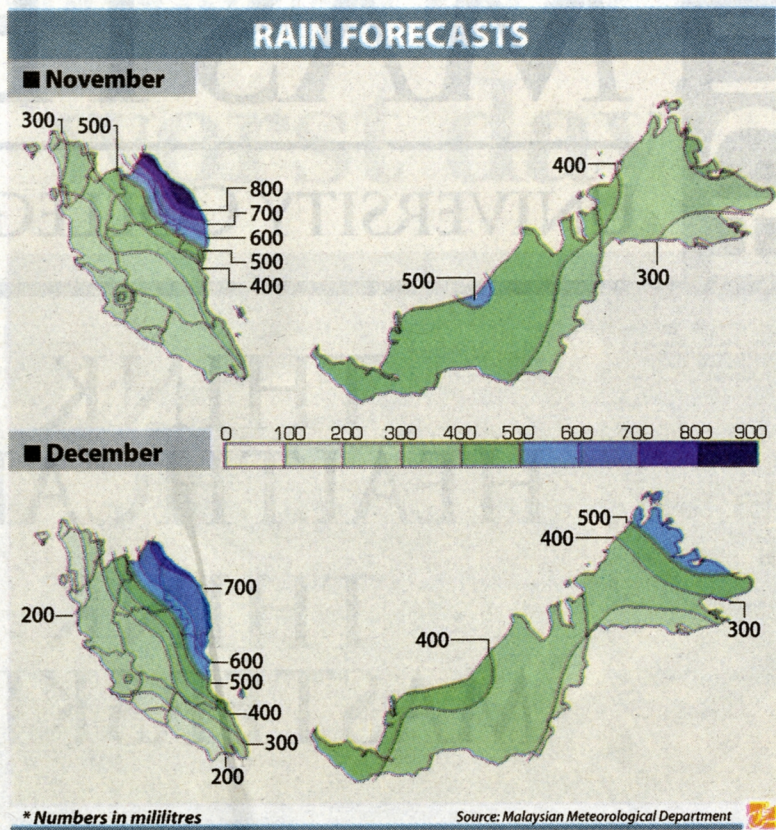
along the rivers.

"This way, the public will not need to second-guess any reports or alerts as they will be able to track the changes in real-time," he said.

The portal was launched in preparation for potential floods in the coming months as a result of increased rainfall caused by the La Nina weather phenomenon.

The portal will also allow the public to follow updates in 198 flood-prone areas identified by the Department of Irrigation and Drainage, receive notices of road closures, and obtain information on where to seek help and shelter.

Reza said in the event of floods, the portal would also be used to keep



track of flood-related fatalities as well as the number of people evacuated to relief shelters.

"We hope the public as well as agencies involved in relief and evacuation efforts will find the portal useful in preparing for the imminent floods in the next few months."

The *New Sunday Times* had reported that the state's Civil Defence

Department was preparing for at least five waves of floods between now and Chinese New Year in February.

The department has forecasted that the brunt of the first wave of flooding is expected to hit Hulu Terengganu and Besut, followed by Setiu, Marang and Dungun, beginning either early next month or early next year.