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Provision shops all set to help out

SEREMBAN: The state government has sought the help of provision shop owners to ensure there is no shortage of food and other supplies in flood-hit areas.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said this was to ensure food supplies and other necessities were quickly delivered to flood victims, especially those placed in temporary shelters.

"We have spoken to these provision shop owners and they are ready to assist us. We cannot wait for supplies to arrive from Seremban because of the flood conditions and would cause greater inconvenience to those affected," he said.

"Among the flood-prone areas in the state are Gemas in Tampin and Johol, Kuala Pilah. Until now, we have not evacuated anyone from these areas as the waters had receded soon after heavy rains and no homes had been badly affected.

"On our part, we will display the relevant numbers, including the flood operation centres in all districts at strategic locations. We have also ensured that all our emergency rescue equipment are in working condition," he said.

Meanwhile, **Johor** started preparations early to face another possible flood, by setting up 600 relief centres.

The centres could accommodate 166,047 victims, state security council assistant secretary Azura Mohd Kifli said.

He said Batu Pahat, Segamat, Johor Baru and Kota Tinggi had been placed on the high-risk list.

Azura said a meeting chaired by Johor state secretary Datuk Abdul Latiff Yusof two days ago also decided to set up sub-committees to deal with possible floods.

"All district offices have been directed to identify their respective committees that will be headed by a headmaster or community leader in the area."

She said 2,283 policemen would be on standby with 60 boats, helicopters and 288 utility vehicles.



A family outside their flood-hit house in Taman Sri Kulim, Alor Star, yesterday. — NST picture by Azahar Hashim

Kedah sees double the garbage load after floods

By **Adib Povera**
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ALOR STAR: The amount of garbage, especially in flood-affected areas, has doubled in the state.

Environment Idaman Sdn Bhd (E-Idaman) director Azmanuddin Haq Ahmad said the waste load in Kedah had increased to more than 2,000 tonnes a day compared with 1,100 tonnes before the floods.

The company, which was appointed

to handle solid waste management in the state last year, was working to cart away garbage and debris within two weeks.

"E-Idaman is going all out as we want to clear up all the waste from this town as soon as possible.

"Our men have been deployed in affected areas and are working extended hours since Monday.

"Ten tipper trucks were rented to add to our cleaning machinery, which comprises 21 garbage collec-

tors trucks and six backhoes," he said here yesterday, adding that 40 per cent of the total waste from the floods has been collected.

He also said the company was going to collect the waste in phases.

He said based on discussion with the state government, E-Idaman would clear waste accumulated by the roadside at main routes in Kota Setar, Kubang Pasu and Pokok Sena, before clearing garbage in residential areas.

"We have set up a temporary storage facility in Sungai Baru here, before the garbage is transferred to a dumpsite in Jabl."

Earlier, Azmanuddin presented Hari Raya Aidiladha donations to 104 of its employees who were affected by floods.

He said the donation was a token from the company to lessen their burden as well as to appreciate their commitment to their work, although their houses were flooded.



WATCH YOUR STEP

Children of Kampung Tersang in Rantau Panjang, Kelantan, using a makeshift 'bridge' to move from house to house during Hari Raya Aidiladha yesterday. Floodwaters from Sungai Golok have yet to recede. — NST picture by Fathil Asri