

More evacuees return home

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KOTA BARU: The flood situation in the state has improved slightly, with the number of evacuees dropping to 2,241 yesterday from 3,590 on Sunday.

A state police spokesman said some victims were still sheltering at 22 relief centres in Kota Baru, Tumpat and Pasir Mas districts.

"More flood victims are expected to return home soon as the water recedes following fine weather."

The water level at the Sungai Golok in Rantau Panjang has dropped while that of Sultan's Pier has risen slightly.

A police spokesman said the water level at Sungai Golok was 9.78m as of 6pm yesterday, which is 0.78m above its danger level. Water level at Sultan's Pier was recorded at 3.51m (the danger level is at 5m).

"The water levels at other assessment points are still below the danger level."

Among the centres still operational are SK Bakong, SK Kedai Tanjong, Rantau Panjang railway station, SK Pengkalan Kubor and SK Geting.

The spokesman said six roads in Pasir Mas, including Km9 of the Pohon Tanjung-Rantau Panjang road at Kampung Siram, remained closed.

In Kuala Terengganu, the flood situation remained unchanged with 89 victims still taking shelter at two relief centres in the Setiu district.

A National Security Council spokesman said 82 people were at the Beris To Ku community hall while the rest were at Sekolah Kebangsaan Rhu Sepuluh relief centres.

All village roads closed due to flooding have been reopened.

A Drainage and Irrigation Department spokesman said water level at all major rivers in Terengganu were below the danger level and subsiding.



Flood victims taking shelter at the relief centre set up in Sekolah Kebangsaan Kedai Tanjong, Pasir Mas. — NST picture by Zulfadhli Zulkifli

5 more schools closed, 2,300 students affected

KOTA BARU: Five more schools in the state were closed due to floods yesterday, with 2,300 students affected.

This brings the total of schools closed to 24 since floods hit the state last Friday.

Four of the schools — SMK Meranti, SK Gelang Mas, SK Rahmat and

SK Kampung Baru — are in Rantau Panjang while SK Padang Mandol is in Tumpat.

State education director Hussin Awang said the water levels were between 1m and 2.5m at the five schools.

Meanwhile, the body of the state's third flood victim, Mohd Haiqal Sabri,

who slipped and fell into a river near Kampung Lubuk Kuin in Bachok, was found on Sunday.

A police spokesman said the body was discovered about 6.30pm near the area he was reported missing.

He said the pupil of SK Gunung 2 was with five friends when the in-

cident happened about 3.30pm.

Besides Haiqal, the other flood victims were Siti Aisyah Kamarulzaman, 10, of Kampung Belukar Limbat, here, and 17-year-old Mohd Farid Zulkifli of Kampung Tok Marbu, Tumpat.

Siti Aisyah drowned on Saturday and Farid on Sunday.

1,000 volunteers sent to flood-hit areas

KUALA LUMPUR: The Civil Defence Department has deployed 1,000 volunteers to flood-hit states as well as flood-prone areas in the country, said its director-general Datuk Abdul Halim Abdul Hamid.

He said the department was also providing essential items to flood evacuees at all state operations rooms, in addition to boats and five-tonne lorries to help ferry victims out of flooded areas.

He said the department planned to set up offices in all 89 districts nationwide this year.

"We don't want to have to tell 999 callers that we don't have an office in their district and that we cannot provide them help," he said at his office here yesterday.

The department is also aiming to recruit another 22,000 volunteers, which would bring the total to 200,000.

Halim said the department's volunteers, comprising 2,015 factory workers and staff of companies, had been divided into 70 Civil Defence Emergency Response Teams.

He also said plans were being made to strengthen the search and rescue operations.

Last year, the department attracted 100,000 new volunteers, compared to 78,000 in 2009.

Increasing the number of volunteers each year was one of the department's strategies in ensuring sufficient personnel in times of disasters, he said. — Bernama



Volunteers transporting flood victims to higher ground in Pengkalan Kubur. — NST picture by Rosdan Wahid

Repairs to institute soon

KANGAR: Repairs to the Industrial Training Institute (ILP) in Kangar, which was damaged in the floods last November, will start soon.

Deputy Human Resource Minister Datuk Maznah Mazlan, on a working visit to ILP yesterday, said part of the RM9.4 million special allocation approved by the ministry would be used to repair the training institute.

She said damage to the ILP had affected 333 students.

Maznah said they would resume training in April once the building and equipment were repaired.

She said the ILP in Jitra would receive the same aid.

Earlier, Maznah gave out aid to 76 employees from the ILP and 11 employees from the state labour department.