

Waters recede but Johor stays on alert



Taman Kemang Kota Tinggi residents helping a family to clean up after floods struck the neighbourhood recently. — NST picture by Amad Bahri Mardi

JOHOR BARU: Fewer evacuees in Johor returned home yesterday compared with previous days as the authorities remained wary of the floods taking a turn for the worse.

As of 5pm, there were still 28,099 people at 105 relief centres as compared with 28,970 on Saturday.

State flood operations room spokesman said relief centres still open were in Ledang (19), Segamat (18), Muar (28) and Batu Pahat (38).

The other 230 relief centres in Kluang, here, Kota Tinggi, Pontian and Kulaijaya had been closed as those districts have almost totally recovered from the floods.

"The number of evacuees who returned home since Saturday is just about 800 because we are still on high alert in some areas," the spokesman said.

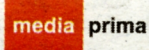
As of 4pm yesterday, Sungai Muar at Buloh Kasap was still at 9.83m, which was higher than its danger level of 9.14m.

The Bekok dam at Sungai Batu Pahat was also still above its danger mark of 17.5m at 18.73m.

The situation in Pahang had returned to normal, with the remaining

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12 flood victims at a relief centre in Rompin allowed to return home yesterday morning.

A spokesman from the Pahang police operations room said the victims,

who were at the relief centre at SK Aur Ibam, began returning to their village at Kampung Aur at 9am.

In **Malacca**, the number of flood victims at two relief centres in Jasin dropped to 330 people yesterday from 407 people the day before.

A spokesman from the state flood operations room said the victims, from 74 families, were from the Sungai Rambai state constituency.

He expected the situation to improve further as the water level at Sungai Kesang was receding.

Meanwhile, Puteri Umno said it intends to play its role to step up a cleanliness programme, particularly in flood-stricken states.

Its head, Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin, said the programme, in collaboration with the district health office, would increase awareness among flood victims and prevent them from being inflicted with diseases.

The deputy health minister said assistance given to flood victims normally focused on efforts to send them to evacuation centres, as well as other forms of aid.

However, she noted that cleanliness was not given priority.