

Downpour ruins crops



Troubled waters: Motorists struggling to negotiate the affected road near Bukit Payung-Kuala Terengganu in Bukit Payung town. (Inset) Idris, 46, (carrying basket) and his friends collecting the remaining crops.

Floods cause RM16,000 loss to farmers

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KUALA TERENGGANU: The floods that came with heavy rain over the past few days have destroyed farm crops in Kampung Chek Long here, causing more than RM16,000 in losses to 12 vegetable farmers in the village.

Farmers Association chairman Idris Jusoh said their crops, including vegetables like long beans, kangkung and cucumber, were destroyed.

"The crops are our bread and butter," he said at the village here yesterday.

He added the poor drainage system had contributed to floods in the area.

Wakaf Mempelam development officer Wan Mahyudin Wan Ngah said he would ask the state Agriculture Department to assist the farmers.

A total of 776 victims have been evacuated to 12 relief centres due to floods in the state following heavy rain over the past few days.

Terengganu flood operations room spokesman said the victims were evacuated from several areas in Kemaman, Marang, Dungun and Kuala Terengganu.

A check with the Meteorological Department revealed that rain is expected until tomorrow.

Terengganu education director Razali Daud said seven schools have been closed due to the floods.

The schools are SMK Seri Nilam, SK Wakaf Mempelam and SK Padang Midin in Kuala Terengganu, SK Ajil and SK Lubuk Periuk in Hulu Terengganu, SK Delong in Dungun and SK Kampung Besut in Setiu.

Terengganu police chief Senior Asst Comm Datuk Jamshah Mustapa said two roads have been closed to light vehicles due to floodwaters.

SAC Jamshah added that the roads were KM116 of the Kuantan-Kuala Terengganu road, which is in Kerteh, where water has reached 0.5m and KM109 of the same road, where a 2km stretch has been closed.