



Kangar police chief Superintendent Abdul Rahman (left) and his men mounting a roadblock in Kangar, Perlis, during 'Ops Banjir' to crack down on crime yesterday. — NST picture by Eizairi Shamsudin

More than 3,400 move to evacuation centres

By Adib Povera

adibpovera@nst.com.my

KANGAR: The flood situation in Perlis is improving, with more evacuees returning home yesterday.

At press time, eight of the 35 relief centres in the state were closed and more than 500 victims were allowed to go home as the floodwaters at their areas had receded.

However, the flooding here remained serious with the number of evacuees rising from 2,527 on Thursday to 3,474 yesterday.

The victims were placed at 19 flood evacuation centres in the dis-

trict. A flood operations room spokesman said 3,783 people from 1,028 families, were still staying at 27 flood evacuation centres around Perlis.

In **Padang Besar**, the situation showed improvement with only 104 people still at the three centres compared with 432 people on Thursday the previous day.

The situation also improved in Arau district with two relief centres closed, and the remaining five still operating have only 205 people from 64 families.

Deputy Education director-general Dr Zahri Aziz said 14 schools re-

mained closed as they were still flooded, affecting 4,587 pupils.

They are SK Padang Melangit, SK Seri Indera, SK Putra, SK Abi, SK Titi Tok Bandar, SK Perlis, SK Stella Maris, SJK (Tamil) Kangar, SMK Syed Hassan, SMK Derma, SMK Putra, SMK Perlis, SM Vokasional Kangar and SM Agama (Perempuan) Kangar.

"The schools were ordered closed after water started rising and the move was a precautionary step to avoid any untoward incident.

"We haven't completed the damage assessment, but we believe the losses would not be as bad com-

pared with the damage sustained during the floods last November," he said.

He said some schools were still being used as relief centres, including SK Sena, SK Panggau, SK Behor Empiang and SMK Datuk Ali Ahmad.

State Irrigation and Drainage Department director Nishad Mohamed Mohd Shaffy said the reservoir's water level at the dam had returned to normal from 29.84m on Thursday to 29.64m yesterday.

"We believe that the situation will return to normal if there is less rain in the state."