

Floods in Perlis will not affect UPSR candidates

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KANGAR: Floods which have inundated parts of Perlis are unlikely to disrupt the start of the Ujian Penilaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) for 4,594 candidates in the state today.

State Education Department director Dun Kasa said inspections on 75 primary schools showed that the public examination for Year Six pupils could go on.

"In some schools, we will hold the examination in classrooms on the upper floors, while for some, only the roads leading to the schools are affected. We can still enter the buildings," he said.

Dun said some pupils had been allowed to stay at their schools during the three-day examination to prevent them from being stranded at home in case the floods worsen.

He said the state welfare and education departments would provide food for such pupils.

Yesterday, only SK Tunku Budriah and SMK Datuk Sheikh Ahmad were closed but they are expected to reopen today based on the current weather condition.

In a related development, the number of evacuees in Perlis have increased to 516 people at 12 relief centres.

A spokesman from the state flood operations centre, said the number of evacuees in Arau and Padang Besar had increased to 192 and 265 respectively as at 6pm yesterday.

There were 59 evacuees in Kangar, he said.

Six relief centres were ordered to be opened in Padang Besar, three in Kangar and four in Arau.

"We are expecting more people in Arau to be evacuated within the next two days as waters from the hilly basin of Padang Besar have started flowing downstream towards the royal town," he said.

As at 6pm, he said the water level at Timah Tasoh Dam was 29.77m, above the danger level of 29.6m and in Sungai Arau, it was 7.34m, above the danger level of 7m.

In **KEDAH**, state civil defence department director Mohtar Abdul Samad said its personnel were placed on stand-by following the increase in the water levels at most rivers in the state.

Teams were sent to monitor the common flood-prone areas in Kubang Pasu, Padang Terap and Kota Setar.



He ain't heavy: Norni Basir, 14, carrying her brother Hakimi Ismail, five, as they leave their flooded home in Jalan Raja, Arau in Perlis, to a nearby sundry shop yesterday.