



Malaysian Red Crescent members in Kedah getting ready for floods in Alor Star yesterday. — NST picture by Shahrizal Md Noor

States get ready for floods

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KUALA LUMPUR: Several states are building tide gates and bunds as part of the Drainage and Irrigation Department's flood mitigation measures.

DID Division of River Basin and Coastal Management director Datuk Lim Chow Hock said tide gates prevented flood waters from coming into coastal areas while raised platforms, or bunds, would help control the flow of flood waters. He said Segamat, Pekan and Alor Star were implementing these measures.

"Low-lying areas would be flooded if the same amount of rain that hit Thailand were to hit our shores.

"Coastal and river areas, such as Penang, Batu Pahat, Kota Baru and Segamat, would most likely face problems if the storms continued.

"Flood mitigation consists of deepening and widening rivers, building flood walls and using flood pumps to pump water from the inside to rivers."

The Malaysian Meteorological Department said floods were expected to occur as the northeast monsoon season was stronger than the one that hit last year.

It said five or six episodes of heavy

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The total rainfall exceeded the average level predicted in some areas across the country. This is expected to cause floods this month.

It said floods were expected to occur in Pahang and Johor next month and early January, while Sarawak, Kuching, Sri Aman, Miri and Limbang were expected to experience heavy rainfall, which might cause floods from next month to early February.

In Sabah, floods were expected from the middle of this month to January, especially in Kudat (including Marudu, Kota Belud, and Pitas) and Sandakan.

The department said a central disaster management and relief meeting for all government agencies would be held on Thursday to discuss the situation.

Malaysian Employers Federation executive director Shamsuddin Bardan said Malaysian factories did not need to worry about disruptions.

"We haven't seen major flooding that would disrupt factories as significantly as in Bangkok."

He said although east coast areas were prone to heavy flooding, there were no major industries there.

"Even if there were factories there, the industrial sites would have back-up plans in the event of floods."