

Security council ready for floods

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KUALA LUMPUR: The National Security Council's central committee met yesterday to discuss flood preparations nationwide.

The committee comprising various agencies and ministries, including the police, was ready for floods in terms of manpower, equipment and food supplies, said Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Khalid Abu Bakar.

"Police are also working closely with the Meteorological Department in monitoring the weather patterns, and we are ready to act in any situation. Although several agencies are involved, but we will be leading the operations."

He also cautioned parents to keep an eye on their children, saying there were cases where flood victims chose to save documents or valuables first instead of their children.

"There were incidents where children drowned or were swept away in a split second while parents were busy looking for valuables and important documents. I hope such incidents could be avoided this monsoon season."

In **Johor Baru**, preparations were also being made by the Johor government to face floods, said Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman yesterday.

The state government, he said, could use its experience in handling floods that hit the state in 2006, 2007 and early this year.

"We have mobilised all manpower and the flood evacuation centres have been instructed to be ready to receive evacuees," he said after launching the Johor Land Bhd low-cost housing project here.

He said 154 residents in flood-prone areas of Taman Melati and Taman Kiang, both in the Tebrau parliamentary constituency, would be relocated to the Johor Land Bhd

low-cost housing project in Taman Bukit Tiram. Johor Land Bhd is a subsidiary of the Johor Corporation.

Ghani said floods were expected to hit the north and east coast states of peninsular Malaysia first, before hitting Johor next month.

In **Kuantan**, a brief thunderstorm caused flash floods in several areas here, including Jalan Tun Ismail 1 and Jalan Teluk Sisek.

Jalan Tun Ismail 1 was badly affected, with floodwaters reaching almost 0.5m after an hour of heavy rain.

A fallen branch in Jalan Bukit ubi disrupted traffic flow while a tree was uprooted in Jalan Indera Mahkota 1 during the thunderstorm which lasted for three hours.

A Kuantan Municipal Council (MPK) spokesperson said council workers had cleared clogged drains along the town's main roads to ensure rainwater could flow into Sungai Galing and Sungai Kuantan during a downpour.