

Perlis readies dam and rivers to avert floods

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KANGAR: As a short-term plan to avert floods in Perlis, the water level at the Timah Tasoh dam has been reduced by a metre to 28.1m which is one metre lower than the normal water reading.

State Department of Irrigation and Drainage deputy director Mat Supri Kasa said this would allow the containment of more water in case of unpredictable continuous rain.

He said 10 rivers in Perlis had also been widened and deepened for this purpose.

"We are taking all steps to be prepared in the event flooding occurs in this state," said Mat Supri when contacted.

Perlis has three major floods in the past year.

The Meteorological Department has forecasted that there would be a 40 per cent chance of more rainfall in this coming northeast monsoon season and floods were expected to occur.

States that would be worst hit were Kelantan, Terengganu, Perlis, Kedah, eastern Sarawak and Sabah, especially during the transitional period of the northeastern monsoon this month.

"We are doing as much as we can and we started widening and deepening rivers in Perlis about two months ago, especially at Sungai Repoh, Sungai Arau, Sungai Panggas, Sungai Serai, Sungai Buluh and Sungai Abi," said Mat Supri.

"We are also placing soft rock bags at steep slopes to protect the trimmed slopes from erosion.

"But these are all short-term plans



Paramedics from the Malaysian Red Crescent Society getting ready for deployment to Perlis for the coming monsoon season. — NST picture by Nik Hariff Hassan

to stop floods from the state.

"If the downpour were to exceed 100mm, in all parts of the state then there will be a possibility of floods."

Mat Supri said that they were closely monitoring the rainfall readings and the water level at the rivers and the dam and also the tides at sea.

"Earth drains have also been replaced by concrete drains to smoothen the flow of water."

Meanwhile, in case there are floods in Perlis, the Welfare Department is all geared up and ready to brace the situation.

Its director Abdullah Ali said the department had collaborated with

the "Perlis Four Wheel Drive Club" to transport food to those taking refuge at relief centres.

"Complaints of food being delivered late to relief centres will be a thing of the past.

"This collaboration will make it easier for a four-wheel-drive vehicle to provide food to the relief centres."