

600 homes hit by floods

Kedah folk blame area's poor drainage system

ALOR SETAR: At least 600 homes in Kuala Kedah have been affected by flash floods following the monsoon downpour.

Water entered some of the houses and the roads leading to Taman Seri Putra, Taman Desarena and Perumahan Awam Kuala Kedah were in 0.4m-deep water.

Residents claimed that the flooding occurred as the drains were clogged.

Taman Desarena resident Zainal Abidin Zabidi, 64, said the area was hit twice by floods between midnight and 3am, and again at 11am until 3pm after heavy rains which lasted an hour and two hours, respectively.

Ismail Shaari, 46, said flash floods had occurred over the past three years after two new housing areas bordering Taman Desarena, Taman Seri Putra and Perumahan Awam Kuala Kedah were built.

The Prime Minister's special functions officer Datuk Latt Shariman, who visited the residential areas, said Kuala Kedah Umno members had to pump the floodwater into Sungai Tok Pasai.

"I believe the drainage system at



Stroll in the pool: Children walking in water in front of their houses in Kuala Kedah yesterday.

the three residential areas should be widened and regularly cleared so such an incident won't recur."

Alor Setar City Council Mayor Datuk Mat Noh Ahmad said a team of engineers would be sent to the affected areas to investigate and take action.

Kedah and Perlis are expected to receive more than 40% of the normal rainfall during the north-east monsoon season until February.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department had said wet weather

conditions were expected throughout the country during the monsoon period with five to six heavy rainfall episodes.

The heavy rainfalls which normally last for two to three days could cause floods especially in low-lying areas and along river banks.

In **KANGAR**, *Bernama* quoted the Raja Muda of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail calling upon the people of the state to prepare for the imminent floods by tak-

ing consistent and voluntary personal initiatives, both on the home-front and at the work place.

"People should not build structures which can obstruct the flow of water and they should not throw rubbish into rivers, ditches and drains," he said.

Tuanku Syed Faizuddin also encouraged people to collect rain water for recycling, which would indirectly reduce the volume of water running into waterways.