

Floods force many to evacuate

Hundreds in relief centres after downpour in Johor, Terengganu and Kelantan

PETALING JAYA: Hundreds of residents in Johor, Terengganu and Kelantan have been hit by floods following heavy rain and thunderstorms.

In **JOHOR BARU**, more than 490 residents were evacuated after floodwaters rose to about 1.2m at two villages in Skudai following a downpour on Sunday.

A total of 115 households from Kampung Laut and four from Kampung Poh Chir Leng were moved to SK Skudai flood relief centre.

Form Five student M. Manimengalai, 18, did not have time to grab her revision books but said she was not worried as she was prepared for her SPM examination.

Painter Wong Kok Pau, 35, said he built a 1.5m wall in front of his house in Kampung Poh Chir Leng 10 years ago to keep floodwaters out.

"But the drain in front of my house overflowed when it rained," he said.

Nusajaya assemblyman Datuk Aziz Sopian said 495 residents from the two villages were evacuated to the flood relief centre.

"I was informed that two other areas in Gelang Patah - Taman Damai Jaya and Kangkar Pulai - were affected, but no one has been evacuated," he said.

In **TERENGGANU**, two districts were badly hit, forcing the evacuation of 20 people.

A state National Security Council spokesman said they were moved out from Kampung Merbau Menyusut in Setiu yesterday after their houses were flooded.

"They are staying at the village mosque," he said, adding that the Hulu Terengganu district was also hit with several Kampung Kolam Ajil and Kampung Telaga residents evacuated.

The levels of several major rivers have also risen with Sungai Nerus in Kampung Langkap rising above the 21.5m danger mark while the level of Sungai Telemon in Kampung Paya Rapat breached the 21m danger level.



All safe now: Yati Ibrahim, 25, and her newborn baby were among the victims who have been moved to a flood relief centre after floodwaters submerged their village at Kampung Merbau Menyusut in Terengganu. (Below) Children playing in floodwaters in Kampung Langkap, Terengganu last night. - The Star/Bernama

Sungai Calok Setiu rose to 8.57m, higher than the 8.5m that it should be.

In **KELANTAN**, there were flash floods in Kota Baru and Pasir Puteh. However, heavy rains and strong winds damaged several houses in the fishing village in Pantai Sabak near Kota Baharu. The roofs of some houses were blown away. - Bernama





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DRB-Hicom Pekan plant ready for wet weather

By **ROSLINA MOHAMAD**
roslina@thestar.com.my

PEKAN: DRB-Hicom Bhd is taking measures to ensure its plant here will not be affected if floods hit the area during the current monsoon season.

Its group managing director Datuk Seri Mohd Khamil Jamil said a sum of RM500,000 had been allocated for its flood preparation measures, which included providing relief to staff and their families.

"In light of the Thai floods where industries were badly affected, we are roping in all 20 emergency response teams from the seven subsidiaries under DRB-Hicom.

"Each team is now prepared and ready to spring into action when the need arises," he said after launching an industry-centric adjunct programme for its International College of Automation here yesterday.

He said the company had learnt from the big floods that hit the state, especially Pekan and Kuantan in 2007 which left many people stranded.

Mohd Khamil said the emergency response teams were established in the same year with some RM1mil spent on various relief aid.

"A soup kitchen was set up at that time to provide warm meals to staff, their families and flood victims.

"The teams and staff played significant roles in helping flood victims and distributing relief aid.

"Our speedboat also managed to go to many places that others were unable to reach," Mohd Khamil said, adding that there were plans to buy several more boats this year.

KK mulls floodgates to reduce flash floods

KOTA KINABALU: The construction of two floodgates here will significantly reduce the occurrence of flash floods.

A study conducted by the state Department of Irrigation and Drainage concluded that having the floodgates at the Sembulan River and Petagas River near here could avoid incidents such as last Saturday's flash floods.

That day, many low-lying areas in the city were hit by the flash floods, causing a traffic snarl.

State Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Department Datuk Edward Khoo said the Sembulan and Petagas rivers were the two main waterways connected to the sea.

The proposal for the floodgates had been brought to the Chief Minister's attention, Khoo said.

He refused to state the cost of

building the floodgates. He said Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman had also instructed the flood prevention committee under Kota Kinabalu City Hall to be expanded to involve the Putatan and Penampang district councils.

This is because floods do not know boundaries, he said, adding that the committee would also look into improving the drainage systems in the city.

The downpour and high tide were identified as the culprits behind last Saturday's flash floods.

State Department of Irrigation and Drainage director Ng Chee Hing said 190mm of rainfall was recorded that day.

The rain started at 4pm and the tide was at its peak at 8pm, he said, noting that floodwaters started to recede at about 11pm.



On shaky ground: A wooden house on the verge of collapsing after a heavy downpour caused a landslide in Kota Kinabalu last night. - Bernama