

Expect more flooding



Fun in the water: Some children playing in floodwaters after their village was submerged at Kampung Tasek in Setiu, Terengganu.



Meal time: Children enjoying their meal at a flood relief centre at Kampung Tasek in Setiu.



Helping hands: Villagers working together to remove a big log which was stuck at a bridge in Kampung Peroh in Terengganu. — Bernama

Warning for a few districts in three states effective until tomorrow

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PETALING JAYA: Heavy rainfall and more flooding is expected in a few low-lying areas in Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang, the National Security Council has warned in a statement released on its flood portal.

The warning is effective for these areas until tomorrow.

A department spokesman said yesterday that the number of flood-affected victims in Setiu district, Terengganu, has increased to 245 victims involving 51 families.

A total of 47 people from 11 fami-

lies were evacuated to a relief centre in Kampung Tasek in Setiu.

The spokesman said that six temporary evacuation centres are currently operational in Terengganu.

There has been no fatality in the floods reported so far.

However, there was some respite in Johor Baru for 495 flood victims from two villages – Kg Laut and Kg Poh Chir Leng – who were evacuated on Sunday and allowed to return home on Monday.

Single mother Tuminah Leman, 64, said she was happy to find that her furniture and electrical appliances were not destroyed in the 1.21m-flood.

“My neighbours managed to help me move my refrigerator and rice cooker onto the dinner table before I left my house in Kampung Laut for the evacuation centre,” she said.

Tuminah left the centre at around 2pm on Monday.

Retiree Tan Tiam Hock, 70, said he spent the whole day yesterday washing his furniture and cleaning his house.

“The area where I stay in Kampung Poh Chir Leng is a flood-prone area so I have become used to the clean-up,” he said.

Johor Baru (North) deputy OCPD Supt Mohd Akhir Ishak said the remaining 138 victims left the flood

relief centre at around 8am yesterday when floodwaters in the two villages receded fully.

However, the 33 people seeking shelter at the Ayer Hitam flood relief centre in Batu Pahat were still unable to return to their houses as they were still flooded.

Batu Pahat OCPD Asst Comm Din Ahmed said that the residents from Kampung Cahaya Baru moved in four days ago and were still being housed at the evacuation centre.

“Persistent downpour had caused water to rise to about 3.3m last Friday and the water has yet to recede due to the occasional showers in the past few days,” he said.

Cut the rubbish and prevent floods

PETALING JAYA: Malaysians can help prevent floods during the monsoon season just by throwing rubbish responsibly.

“The river near my house overflows its banks every time there is a downpour. People keep throwing rubbish into it, clogging it up,” said Crisis Relief Services and Training spokesperson Olivia Chen.

She added that Malaysians could do more to educate themselves on the links between the environmental and natural disasters and better prepare themselves for

emergency situations.

“The Government is doing an excellent job and always acts quickly to provide relief.

“However, in Malaysia, we get at least three months of heavy rain in a year.

“There is a lot that we can do with our surroundings during the remaining nine months to make them less flood-prone.

“The problem is that Malaysians tend to be reactive, not proactive,” she said.

Chen added that her organisation

has been trying to conduct more crisis response training workshops.

Mercy Malaysia Disaster Risk Reduction department head Puteri Yusof said that climate change and rapid urbanisation called for a greater need for preparedness.

“If you live in a flood-prone area, such as a lowland, take measures to elevate your house. If there is a river nearby that always overflows, deepen it and make sure it is clear of trash,” she said.

She added that remembering “K2P2” was one way to be ready.

“It means two ‘knows’ and two ‘prepares’. Know the risks: identify which hazards in your home and surroundings pose the greatest threats. Know the warning signs: be alert to environmental changes which might sometimes signal danger. Prepare an evacuation plan: prepare a place to go and plan what to do in case of an emergency when you need to evacuate. Finally, prepare a grab bag: put essential items you might need into a bag you can easily get hold of in an emergency,” she said.