

Teens feared dead in floods

Two may have drowned in a drain in Kelantan

KOTA BARU: Two teenage boys are feared to have drowned in Bachok.

A spokesman of the Kelantan Fire and Rescue Department said it received a report at about 3pm that the boys, aged 14 and 16, were believed to have drowned in a drain in Kampung Tualang Salak.

"We have launched a search and rescue operation," he said.

Meanwhile, the situation in flood-hit areas in Kelantan seems to have eased, with eight people allowed to return to their homes, leaving 227 at relief centres.

A spokesman for the state flood operations room said three relief centres remained open, two in Kota Baru and one in Pasir Puteh.

SK Bukit Awang in Pasir Puteh has been turned into a relief centre while the two relief centres in Kota Baru are SK Mulong and SK Tiong.

The levels of four major rivers in Kelantan were reported to be on high alert while the Golok river had surpassed the warning level in Jenob and Rantau Panjang, he added.

The spokesman said two roads – Jalan Machang-Pangkal Meleret-Wakaf Bata in Machang and a stretch at the third kilometre of Jalan Tanah Merah-Kusial-Kampung Ipoh in Tanah Merah – were closed to all vehicles.

He said the levels of four major rivers in Kelantan Lebir in Tualang,



Kelantan at the Guillemard bridge, Golok in Jenob and Rantau Panjang were at the warning point and two others at the alert point.

In **KUALA TERENGGANU**, where Setiu is the worst-affected of three districts, it was reported that some 1,439 people from 243 families had been evacuated, a spokesman of the Terengganu National Security Council (NSC) said.

He said 671 people from 168 families had been evacuated in Setiu, 560 from 12 families in Besut and 208 from 65 families in

Hulu Terengganu.

The spokesman said 21 relief centres had been opened with seven in Setiu, nine in Besut and five in Hulu Terengganu.

The Terengganu Drainage and Irrigation Department reported that the levels of the major rivers in the state breached the danger point yesterday.

Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Said called on the people to move out if their homes were flooded.

"They must also not allow their children to play in the floodwaters."

Rising waters:

Villagers stranded at a flooded road at Kampung Pengkalan Ajal in Hulu Terengganu yesterday. (Below) A villager trying to get to his house which has been submerged by floodwaters at Kampung Buluh in Terengganu.



Aid to 600 flood victims handed out within a week

JOHOR BARU: The Johor Welfare Department has handed out food-stuff and essential items to about 600 flood victims within a week.

Its director Khatijah Abdullah said the items, which included food, blankets and clothes, were distributed to victims in the Skudai, Perling and Batu Pahat relief centres.

All the centres have since been closed after evacuees returned to their homes.

"Each victim was given RM10 worth of food such as rice, instant noodles, biscuits and mineral water along with straw mats, pillows and blankets.

"Some 421 department staff and 718 registered volunteers are on

standby to help victims in case the flood returns," she said.

Segamat district officer Rahim Nin said the authorities were keeping a close watch on several flood-prone hotspots such as Kampung Jawa, Paya Pulau, Tebing Tinggi, Kampung Spang Loi, Kampung Batu Badak and Kampung Usaha Jaya.

"We are monitoring the water

level along the Segamat river, which also flows from Negri Sembilan and Pahang.

"We have designated 22 flood relief centres and will add more depending on the flood situation," he said.

He added that about 18,000 families would be affected if major floods were to occur in the district.

Some 421 department staff and 718 registered volunteers are on standby to help victims.

— KHATIJAH ABDULLAH