

3,450 more evacuated

Flood situation in Terengganu and Kelantan worsens

KUALA LUMPUR: The flood situation in Terengganu and Kelantan has worsened overnight, with 3,457 people evacuated compared to 1,712 evacuees on Wednesday.

Some 2,672 people were evacuated in Terengganu and 785 in Kelantan yesterday.

In **TERENGGANU**, state Security Council assistant secretary (information) Ahmad Redza Arshad said the Setiu and Besut districts were the worst affected.

The number of evacuees in Setiu rose to 1,510 from 829 and in Besut to 940 from 365 while in Hulu Terengganu, it has gone up to 211 from 105. In Marang, 11 people have moved out of their homes.

The Drainage and Irrigation Department reported that rivers in many areas were swollen and the level of some have exceeded the alert and warning points.

In **KELANTAN**, 785 people were at relief centres yesterday as compared to 416 on Wednesday.

A state flood operations spokesman said Kuala Krai was the sixth district to be affected, with 35 people evacuated.

In the Kota Baru district, 306 people have been moved while Machang had 101 evacuees, Pasir Mas (197), Pasir Puteh (21) and



Horse under water: Suhaimi Husin pulling his animals to higher ground at Kampung Kuin Pasir Jelawat in Bachok yesterday.
— SAZUKI EMBONG / The Star

Tanah Merah (125).

The spokesman said the level of the Golok and Kelantan rivers was above the danger point, with water level rising.

Three people have drowned in the floods in Kelantan so far, two brothers aged 14 and 16 in Bachok and a two-year-old boy.

A teenage girl was reported miss-

ing in Pasir Mas.

In **PAHANG**, state police chief Datuk Sharifuddin Abd Ghani said two families were evacuated to the relief centre in Cherating.

In **BATU PAHAT**, a total of 23 victims involving four families were evacuated in Ayer Hitam but nine had returned home after the water subsided yesterday.

Among the 14 remaining in the relief centre were farmer Ghazali Mat Rejab, his wife and five children, who came after their house was flooded on Oct 23.

"It has been a month since we left our house and we want to go home so badly. Some of our belongings have been destroyed by monkeys," he said.

80 relief centres identified in Malacca, says Mohd Ali

MALACCA: Eighty relief centres have been identified in the state in preparation for floods following the rising water levels at all rivers and abnormal rainfall.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said an operations room was also in place to monitor flood-prone areas throughout the state.

He said the relief centres would be able to accommodate 22,330 people.

"We have formed a disaster relief management committee, headed by the state secretary together with the relevant departments, in case of any major floods," he said after the weekly state executive council meeting.

He said Melaka Tengah district would have 41 relief centres to house 9,680 victims, Alor Gajah (25) and Jasin (14), which could house 7,650 and 5,000 victims respectively.

State executive councillor and MCA chief Datuk Gan Tian Loo also called on residents staying near flood-prone areas to be alert.

"They can call the flood operations room at 1-300-BANJIR for the latest updates," he said yesterday.

In Melaka Tengah, he said, the flood-prone areas were Kg Tun Razak, Sg Putat, Kg Palau Kelapa in Peringgit, Jalan Zahir in Taman Malim Jaya, Taman Merdeka, Taman Angkasa Nuri, Jalan Tun Kudu in Bkt Katil, Taman Merak Mas and Taman Bukit Beruang Utama.

For Alor Gajah district, the areas were Kg Taboh Nanning, Kg Cerana Putih, Kg Bukit Tambun, Pekan Lubok Cina, Kg Pulau, Kg Belimbing Dalam, Taman Seri Bayu and Kg Seri Pengkalan.

Jasin district, said Gan, had more areas since it was a water catchment area. These include Kg Janda Berhias, Kg Seri Mendapat, Kg Kilang Berapi, Kg Umbai, Kg Chabau, Chinchin, Rim, Simpang Bekoh and Asahan.

As of 10am yesterday, Gan said rivers at Teluk Rimba in Jasin had reached a dangerous level at 3.7m.

A total of 24 people have been evacuated to the SK Parit Penghulu relief centre.

Moderate rain forecast in five states

KUALA LUMPUR: The Meteorological Department has forecasted moderate rain for Terengganu, Pahang and Kelantan for the next few days with possible floods in low-lying areas.

Moderate rain was also expected in several areas in Perlis and Kedah until today.

A Meteorological Department spokesman said the forecast was based on satellite overview of clouds

and rainfall.

In **IPOH**, Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said there were plans to move operations of rural clinics in low-lying areas to higher ground in anticipation of the floods.

He said there were worries that clinics in Perlis, Kedah and other low-lying areas would be affected by floodwaters.

Liow said the medical services in

flood-prone areas would continue as usual.

In **PEKAN**, state Police Chief Datuk Sharifuddin Abdul Ghani said parents should keep a close tab on their children and not allow them to play in the water without proper adult supervision.

"This is important to ensure that there are no untoward incidents during the floods," he said.

He said some regard the floods as normal and allow their children to play in the water, resulting in negligence and fatalities.

"Drowning cases, especially during the floods, can be avoided if all parents are aware of the danger of floods. They should forbid their children from playing in high rising water and monsoon drains," he said.