

More evacuees return home

FLOODS IMPROVE: Clear skies and receding floodwaters allow more evacuees to leave relief centres

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IN Kelantan, the worst affected state, the situation improved slightly with the number of victims at evacuation centres dropping to 1,760 people compared with 1,817 people on Friday.

The number of districts affected had also reduced from six to three namely, Kota Baru, Pasir Mas and Tumpat.

A spokesman for the state Flood Operations Room said the relief centres at Tanah Merah, Bachok and Pasir Putih were closed after the evacuees returned home.

However, Pasir Mas continued to be the worst affected with 1,148 evacuees at 10 centres. Kota Baru had 397 victims and Tumpat 215.

The spokesman said only Sungai Golok recorded waters above the danger level of 9m as at 5pm. The water level was at 10.14m.

In Terengganu, Satiman Jamin reports that the flood situation in Kuala Terengganu improved further yesterday with only 272 evacuees still in relief centres.

All relief centres in Kemaman were closed and the last batch of evacuees were allowed to return home as the sky cleared.

Kuala Terengganu was the district with the most evacuees with 165 people at SK Guntong relief centre.

Only the Kampung Beris Tok Ku evacuation centre with 77 evacuees remained open in Setiu, compared with more than 1,500 evacuated in the district during the height of the floods on Wednesday.

In Hulu Terengganu, only seven people from two families remained at the Kuala Kejir evacuation centre.

Marang had only 23 victims in two evacuation centres in Kampung Pasir Puteh and Kampung Jenang although the water level at Sungai Marang had returned to normal.

In Kuantan, T.N. Alagesh reports that the last two families from Kampung Chen-dor Baru, near Cher-ating, who were evacuated to the flood relief centre in the village on Thursday, were allowed to return home.

The water level at four major rivers in the state, including Sungai Lembing which overflowed its banks on Wednesday had dropped to normal.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) national vice-chairman Datuk Wira Dr Bahari said 2,000 of its 29,650 trained volunteers would be deployed within 30 minutes to help flood victims if the need arose.

"The rapid department squad teams are currently conducting courses in these states to educate the public on safety and health measures to be taken during the floods," he told the *New Sunday Times*.

He said it was important to advise the public on what should and should not be done in order to bring down the death count.

"We are working on creating awareness among parents and children to understand the danger of flood waters. They should not look at the floods as an opportunity to swim and play," he stressed.

He said proper hygiene was also important as waterborne diseases could easily be spread.

"Once relief centres are set up, we will send an ambulance, boat and cooks to help victims there."

He added that the society had been working closely with the Welfare Department, Fire Department and police to help flood victims.

MRCS assured that its volunteers would remain on alert, especially in flood-prone areas.

So far, the floods which started early this week had claimed four lives, including a 2-year-old toddler.

**"They should not
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**Datuk Wira Dr
Bahari,**
Malaysian Red
Crescent Society
national
vice-chairman



Civil Defence Department personnel carrying Esak Omar, of Kampung Gelong Gajah in Tumpat, Kelantan, to an **evacuation centre** nearby as **floodwaters** rose to 1.5m yesterday morning. Pic by Nik Hariff Hassan