

Floods subside in the East Coast

PETALING JAYA: The floods in the East Coast have subsided with only seven evacuation centres in Kelantan still open. All evacuation centres in Terengganu have closed.

However, the National Security Council, which coordinates flood relief efforts among all related government agencies, will be on standby until March in case the floods hit again in the next few weeks.

Council secretary Datuk Mohamed Thajudeen Abdul Wahab said their plans to control the flood situation last week had gone without a hitch.

"The community is happy to see non-governmental organisations and university students helping out with the relief work," he said in an interview here yesterday.

Mohamed Thajudeen said only a few evacuation centres remained open in Pasir Mas and Tumpat.

"The ones in Terengganu have all closed and all evacuees have returned to their homes," he said.

The evacuation centres in Kelantan currently hold 1,309 people, nearly half of the 2,800 evacuees when the floods were at their worst on Thursday.

Seven people drowned in the state over the last week.

Bracing for rain

A view of sand excavation works in full swing to deepen a section of the Ampang river, near Sungai Besi yesterday, in preparation for the monsoon season. — Bernama



Heavy rain forecast for T'gganu and Pahang

KUALA LUMPUR: The warning of heavy rain in several areas in Terengganu and Pahang has been raised from the orange level to red – where intermittent rain with occasional heavy showers are expected to persist until Friday.

This can cause floods in low-lying areas, said the Malaysian Meteorological Department in a statement yesterday.

Among the areas that will be affected in Terengganu are Besut, Setiu, Kuala Terengganu, Marang, Hulu Terengganu, Dungun and Kemaman, as well as Kuantan, Pekan,

Jerantut, Maran, Bera and Rompin in Pahang.

A similar warning was also issued for several areas in Kelantan. Among the areas affected are Tumpat, Pasir Mas, Kota Baru, Bachok, Pasir Puteh, Machang, Tanah Merah, Kuala Krai, Jeli and Gua Musang.

A yellow level warning was issued in Kedah and Perlis where intermittent rain with occasional heavy showers were expected to persist.

The areas affected are Padang Besar, Kangar and Arau in Perlis while in Kedah the affected districts will be Kubang Pasu, Padang Terap,

Kota Setar, Pokok Sena, Pendang and Langkawi.

A second category warning of strong wind and choppy sea with north-easterly winds of 50-60kph and waves of 4.5m-high were forecast until today in the waters of Kelantan, Terengganu, Samui (Kelantan and Terengganu), Condore and Reef North (in the South China Sea) and Pulau Layang-Layang.

A similar category one warning with strong north-easterly winds of 40-50kph and waves of up to 3.5m-high were also expected to persist until today in the waters off

Langkawi, Perlis, North Kedah, Pahang and east Johor.

Other areas affected were the waters off Sarawak; Federal Territory of Labuan, Sabah (interior, west coast and Kudat), Phuket, Tioman, Bunguran (between the peninsula and Kuching), Reef South (throughout the Sarawak waters) and Palawan (north Sabah).

The department said that the sea level was expected to rise in the East Coast of peninsular Malaysia until today. The strong wind condition and choppy sea is dangerous for all beach activities and small boats.