

Depots have food for 1.4m flood victims

PREPARING FOR THE WORST: Deluge likely to hit after Dec 25, says Shahrizat

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THE authorities are ready to face the next round of floods, with all five main supply depots fully stocked up with essential items and food.

There are 5,143 relief centres on standby to handle more than 1.4 million victims nationwide.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said the next round of floods was expected to occur from Dec 25 until early next month.

"We are prepared for the worst and have taken all necessary action," she said after visiting flood victims in Kampung Kurnia here yesterday.

Shahrizat said the main depots in Sungai Petani, Sungai Buloh, Kota Baru, Kuala Terengganu and Batu Pahat had been stocked up with supplies that would be distributed to forward bases and relief centres.

She also said around 1,150 sup-

pliers were ready to send additional items such as fresh food to relief centres throughout the country.

Based on previous cases, Shahrizat said some affected areas could not be reached by suppliers when the roads were inundated.

Therefore, she said it was crucial that all main supply depots and forward bases were fully stocked.

Shahrizat said it was also important to help the victims after the water had receded as they had to clean their homes and repair the damage caused by floods.

"Volunteers will be mobilised to affected areas and among the most active organisations is Wanita Umno's Skuad Sayang," said Shahrizat, who is also Wanita Umno chief.

Some flood victims expressed their gratitude to Shahrizat for coming to check the situation on the ground.

"She also agreed to help me get monthly aid from the Welfare Department," said 60-year-old Hasanah Deraman, a single mother who looks after 11 children and 13 grandchildren.

Since her village was affected by floods almost every year, Hasanah hoped the authorities would find ways to overcome the problem.

The flood situation in Pahang has improved with all relief centres closed as of 1pm yesterday.



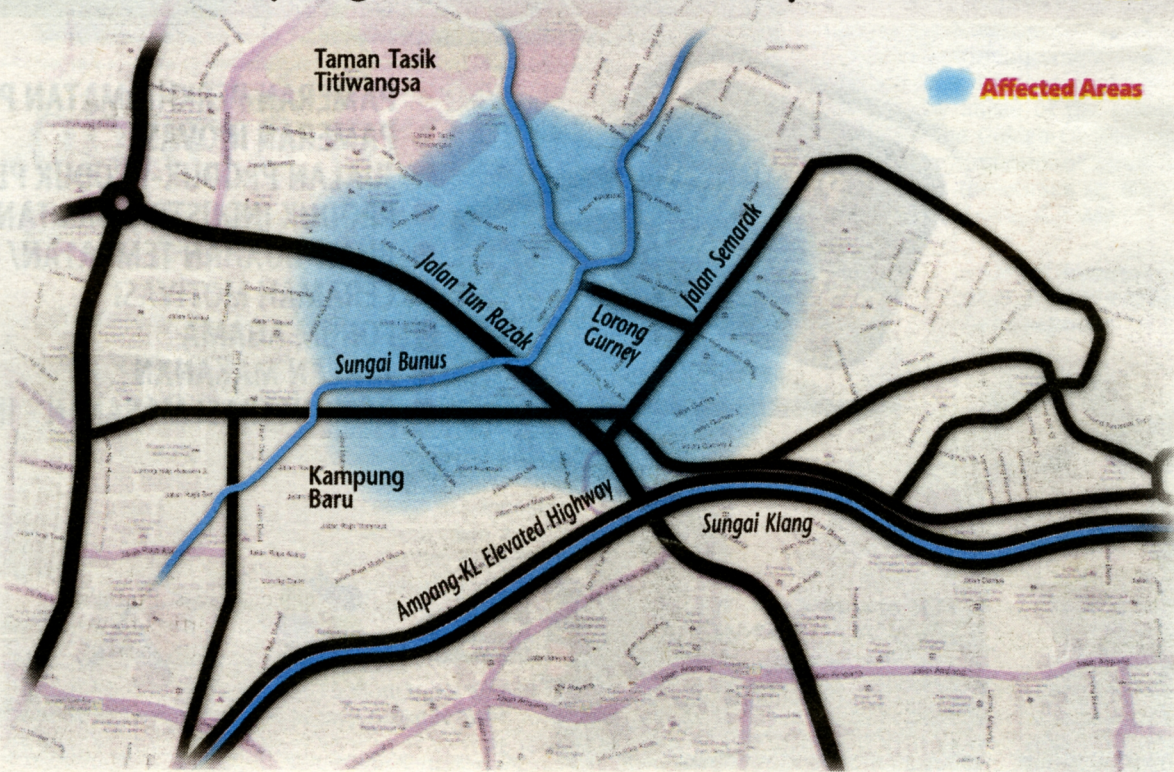
Women, Family and Community Development Minister **Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil** comforting flood victim **Hasanah Deraman**, 60, in Kampung Kurnia, Kuantan, yesterday. — Pic by Halim Mat Ali



The **front yard** of a house in Jalan Syed Mahadi, **Kampung Baru**, Kuala Lumpur, **collapsed** after heavy rain and floods on Tuesday. (Inset) Car owners wading through **floodwaters** to get to their vehicles at the basement car park of **Sungei Wang Plaza** in Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur. Pix by Zulfadhli Zulkifli

Areas affected by Sungai Bunus overflow on Tuesday

INFOGRAPHIC: **NST**



Sungai Bunus cleaned up to ease flooding in city

KUALA LUMPUR: Sungai Bunus, one of the main rivers for floodwaters to flow out of the city, is being cleaned up daily while dredging works are expected to start next month.

Federal Territory Drainage and Irrigation Department director Mat Rahim Ismail said contract tenders had been called to upgrade two retention ponds at the catchment area near Sungai Bunus.

"These are the immediate measures," Mat Rahim told the *New Straits Times*.

In the long term, the DID would embark on a river diversion project

to channel the flow of water from the river to Tasik Titiwangsa. It would also build two retention ponds in Air Panas and Setapak Jaya to reduce the flow of water into the river.

Sungai Bunus is a smaller river compared with Sungai Klang and Sungai Gombak. It runs through the city and has a natural small catchment area.

Its remote location from the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (Smart) system and the Batu Jinjang retention ponds in Kampung Batu means that any overflow cannot be mitigated by the two water

diversion systems.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, flash floods in the city centre had brought traffic to a standstill after the river overflowed because of heavy rain.

Many areas were inundated and these included Jalan Semarak, Kampung Baru, Jalan Raja Chulan, Jalan Pudu, Jalan Tun Razak and Jalan Sultan Ismail.

Meanwhile, MCA treasurer-general Datuk Seri Tan Chai Ho urged the DID to implement both short and long-term plans to improve the handling of flash floods as it had become too unpredictable.



Contractors **cleaning up** the **catchment area** of Sungai Bunus in Lorong Gurney, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday.
Pic by Abdullah Yusof