



Extra holiday: (From right) Nik Rosaini Nik Sulaiman, Siti Norayuni Che Omar, Siti Norsuzidiana Che Omar and Siti Norilah Che Omar returning home by sampan after their school was closed due to floods in Kampung Tersan in Rantau Panjang yesterday.

Water everywhere: Sekolah Menengah Ugama (Arab) Al-Falah in Kampung Siram, Rantau Panjang was forced to close due to floods yesterday.



Off to school – even in floods

Johor to begin new term as scheduled today

JOHOR BARU: Schools in the state will reopen as scheduled today and there will be no extension for flood victims either.

State Education Department director Mohd Nor A. Ghani said none of the schools in the state were being used as flood relief centres any more.

“We also have several students staying at flood relief centres but they will still start school.

“The situation in Johor is not as bad as in Kelantan,” he told *The Star*.

Mohd Nor said no school in Johor was damaged by floods or had its access cut off.

“But we will continue to monitor the situation,” he added.

State Welfare Department director Khatijah Abdullah said 209 people remained at two flood relief centres in Segamat.

She added that the state flood-monitoring centre had been officially closed as the situation had drastically improved.

“We expect all flood evacuees to return to their homes in the next few days but this is dependant on weather conditions,” she said.

Meanwhile, floodwater in Pasir Puteh, Kelantan, is receding and the situation in Besut district, Terengganu, is back to normal. The situation in Setiu is under control.

However, in Rantau Panjang and Gua

Musang, the new school session for students was disrupted as their schools have been inundated in water.

The Kelantan government’s official website stated that the number of flood victims at two evacuation centres in Pasir Puteh was 73, comprising 19 families who were being sheltered at SK Bukit Awang and SK Kamil.

Kelantan Education director Hussain Awang said more than 5,000 students at 11 schools – nine in Rantau Panjang and two in Gua Musang – could not begin their new session.

Rantau Panjang Community Development (Kemas) senior supervisor Mukhtar Mustafa said 50 Kemas kindergartens, including nine new ones in Rantau Panjang, were opened as usual yesterday.

Sungai Golok in Rantau Panjang is still at the danger level of 9.72m as at 8am. Nevertheless, the water is reported to be receding in stages following favourable weather conditions in Kelantan. No main road has been closed to traffic.

In Pasir Puteh, more than 80 padi farmers in two villages claimed to have lost between RM240,000 and RM300,000 when 30% of their 194ha of crops were damaged in the floods due to heavy rain three days ago.

In Terengganu, the state government’s flood portal reported that the last 23 victims in Besut were allowed to return to their homes.