

Eager beaver students saddened

DAMPENED: Students return home as schools closed due to floods

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THEY were eager to go back to school but the students had to return home as it was closed due to the floods which struck on Saturday.

Clad in crisp school uniforms and ready for the first day of school, the students from SK Kampung Bukit in Hulu Nerus here were happy when

headmistress Rohaya Harun greeted them at the school gate.

Their happiness turned into disappointment as Rohaya told them that the school was closed as a safety precaution because the access road to the school was still flooded and there was some floodwater in the toilets and playing field.

"The classrooms were not affected but we cannot hold classes because of safety considerations."

Rohaya said the main road leading

to the school gate was under about 30cm of water. Although it was not very deep, she said it could still pose a hazard to students.

She said the school would be open as usual today.

State Education, Higher Education, Science, Technology and Human Resource Committee chairman Ahmad Razif Abdul Rahman said SK Kampung Besut was also closed for the same reasons as SK Kampung Bukit.

Families moved due to landslide

KINABATANGAN: Five families living in Kampung Menggaris, near here were evacuated from their homes following a landslide nearby today.

Kinabatangan District Officer Arisin Arifin said the landslide had occurred at the slopes of Bukit Mansuri, near their homes.

According to a Bernama report, he said that the order to evacuate was given to the families concerned after his officers found that it was not safe for them to stay on at home.

Arisin said the landslide was being monitored and the affected families would only be allowed to return home after receiving instructions from the District Office.

He said the Flood Operations Control Centre in the district was also opened during working hours to monitor natural disasters especially the floods.

The water level at Sungai Kinabatangan was rising yesterday afternoon but the situation was still under control.

Arisin said that as an initial

preparation to face the floods, members of the Civil Defence Department had been deployed to Kampung Abai since Dec 28.

Meanwhile, schools in Sabah were not expected to face any problems when the school session starts today with no report of floods in their premises so far.

State education director Datuk Dr Muhiddin Yusin said they were anticipating a smooth process and school authorities had been briefed on what to do if such a situation arose.

"To date none of the schools have been reported as still affected by floods.

Muhiddin said schools were always advised to be alert to the potential of flash floods and that in such an event that it hinders the learning and teaching process, they were to stop and replace the classes later.

He said 37,037 pupils involving 1,497 classes were entering Primary One for the 2012 session, lower from 44,345 involving 1,731 classes last year.

Hit hard despite being prepared

KOTA SAMARAHAN: When Kampung Asajaya Ulu, near here, was submerged under one metre of water last week, it was a shock for 68-year-old Pawi Abas and thousands of others in this village of 260 houses.

It was something they were not prepared for even though the floods were a usual affair during the monsoon season.

"We were ready for the floods but not prepared for what we experienced," said Pawi, the village's former head, while waiting to receive his flood relief assistance distributed by NSTP-Media Prima at the Asajaya sports complex yesterday.

Food packages containing basic necessities like rice, sugar, instant noodles, cooking oil and other items were given to the flood victims to help them recover from the disruption in their lives.

It was supported by Yayasan Salam Malaysia, Giant supermarket and consumer giant Adabi.

"It was the worst floods I had ever experienced in my life. We did not expect the water to reach that level so quickly.

"You could say that the floods we experienced in 2010 was nowhere near the level this time," said Pawi when relating his experience.

Fearing for his family's safety, Pawi said he remembered ordering his sons, daughter-in-laws and grandchildren to wade in the

dark when the water was still waist-level to the main road and flag any vehicle to take them to the sports complex which was already filled to the brim with 1,900 people.

Assistant Minister for Youth Development, Abdul Karim Hamzah, who distributed the food packages, agreed that the recent flooding was the worst the area had experienced.

In their four-day mission in the state, the NSTP-Prima Media volunteers distributed food packages to victims in the outlying areas of Kuching, Bau, Penrissen and here in Samarahan.

Media Prima executive director (news and editorial operations) Datuk Ahmad A. Talib was also present to help distribute the food packages to the flood victims yesterday.



Youths washing their motorcycles in front of SABK Al-Falah Siram in Jalan Rantau Panjang. Pic by Zaman Huri Isa

2,000 forced to skip classes in Kelantan

KOTA BARU: Three more primary schools in Kelantan were closed yesterday after Sungai Golok overflowed its bank, bringing the number of the flood-hit schools to seven.

The closure of the seven schools forced more than 2,000 students to skip their classes when the new school term began yesterday, said State Education director Hussain Awang.

He said the schools that were ordered to be closed yesterday were SK Bendang Pak Yong, SK Teluk Jering

and SK Simpangan, all in Tumpat.

Hussain said the other four schools were SK Bihai and SK Balar (both in Gua Musang), SABK Al-Falah Siram and SABK Diniyah Bongor (both in Rantau Panjang).

On Monday, the department ordered 11 schools to remain closed following the second wave of flood but seven were reopened early yesterday after floodwaters in their areas subsided.

Hussain said the pupils at the three schools in Tumpat were told to return

home about noon yesterday when floodwaters started to enter their school compound.

"The headmasters of the affected schools gathered all their pupils to brief them about the situation before informing their parents who came later to pick up their children."

Hussain said the 2,000 students who could not attend their schooling, would only be allowed to resume their classes when floodwaters fully receded.

TABUNG BENCANA



NSTP media prima

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