

Sarawak warns of second wave of floods

SAMARAHAN: Fears of a second wave of flooding swept through villages in the low-lying areas of Bau, Kuching, Sadong Jaya and Asajaya here yesterday as intermittent rain since last Thursday and high tide left two villages inundated with 0.5m of floodwater and three primary schools closed.

The authorities are raising alert over possible flooding in all low-lying areas here and other parts of

the state.

The water level at Sungai Batang Sadong here rose above normal level. Kampung Semera in Sadong Jaya and Serpan Ulu in Asajaya were flooded, but no evacuation notices issued.

Three schools here — SK Semera, SK Serpan and SK Sampun in Asajaya — had to send their pupils home fearing worsening of the floods.

However, as of noon yesterday, the

water level in SK Semera and SK Serpan, and some places had receded. SK Sampun was still flooded.

Teacher Alban Francis said water entered the school's office, pre-school and Year One classrooms.

"We had to tell our pre-schoolers and Year One pupils to return home as a precaution.

"The rain is still heavy in the morning and we fear that the water will swell and flood most

areas here."

The prolonged rain pushed the water level at all major rivers in the state dangerously high yesterday.

At 4pm, the water level at Sungai Sarawak Kanan in Siniawan was at the warning level of 6.66m.

The water levels at Sungai Batang Salak and Sungai Santubong, Sungai Batang Rajang and its major tributaries Sungai Seduan, Sungai Belaga, Sungai Batang Baleh, Sungai

Batang Igan, Sungai Batang Oya and Sungai Batang Balingian have all risen above normal level.

The Drainage and Irrigation Department, in its website, stated that the water at the Bau bridge, about 40km from Kuching, had risen past the warning level.

Similar warnings were also issued for Salim in Sibu and Nanga Lemai in Balingian as the water level of rivers there had risen significantly.