



Civil Defence Department members helping to evacuate Pritam Kaur, 88, from her home in Lim Garden, Ipoh, when the area was flooded yesterday. Pic by Ikhwan Munir

500 flee floods in Ipoh

VILLAGES AND SCHOOLS HIT: Continuous rain from 2am causes Sungai Pari to overflow

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MORE than 500 people from several villages in Gugusan Manjoi here were affected by flash floods that rose more than a metre yesterday.

About 120 houses in Kampung Tengku Husin, Kampung Manjoi Lama and Kampung Dato Ahmad Said were in 0.5m to 1m of water after Sungai Pari overflowed.

Among those affected were 100 orphans from Pusat Jagaan Anak Yatim Nurul Iman, who were evacuated to two relief centres set up at Sekolah Agama Rakyat Tungku Hussin and Dewan Orang Ramai Manjoi.

Four schools in the area — SMK Sri Puteri Ipoh, SMK Sungai Pari, SK Sri Mutiara and SRK Tarcissian Convent — suspended classes after their premises were flooded.

Residents in neighbourhoods near Sungai Pari, including Taman Suria, Taman Merdeka, Kampung Mat Said Tambahan 3, Lim Garden and Taman Muhibbah, were also affected.

Manjoi assemblyman Datuk Nadzri Ismail described the floods as the worst in a decade as rains from 2am caused Sungai Pari to overflow.

Strong currents also caused a bridge at Wing Onn Garden to collapse.

A team from the Ipoh Fire and Rescue Department was at the scene from 7am to conduct rescue efforts.



Rubbish and debris stuck at a bridge over Sungai Pari in Gugusan Kampung Manjoi yesterday. Bernama pic

Nadzri said at least 100 households were affected.

"The state government has set up an action committee to oversee the rescue and temporary placement of residents.

"Water levels have risen to a dangerous level and the whole area has been classified as an Orange Zone," he said after visiting the scene yesterday.

Several Ipoh City Council lorries were deployed to clean up the debris from a bridge off Jalan Raja, to prevent the river from overflowing further.

Victim Habsah Shahir could only cry at the sight of her house half-submerged in floodwaters.

The 56-year-old from Kampung Manjoi Lama off Jalan Raja was among those evacuated after flash

floods hit several villages in Gugusan Kampung Manjoi, known as the country's largest Malay village cluster.

"The water level rose to waist high in a few hours. We did not have enough time to save our belongings. I am afraid our losses this time will be high."

Habsah, who lives with her husband and two children, said she was used to flash floods in the past but had never been this badly affected.

Another resident, Mohd Daud Abbas, 61, from Kampung Setingan off Jalan Raja said he noticed the floodwaters rising when he got up at 5am for prayers.

"The water level was up to my knee and I alerted my wife, daughter and sister-in-law to evacuate

the house."

Daud said he managed to save a few important documents before taking shelter at a nearby restaurant located on higher ground.

His wife Zaleha said she was surprised the flood-alert siren did not go off.

"Usually, the siren will warn us when the flood level rises to a dangerous level. This time, there was no signal."

The couple said they were traumatised by the severity of the floods this time and were considering moving to another area.

"We have experienced floods four times since moving here six years ago. It is too costly for us to continue living here and repairing our damaged property each time," she said.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, who visited the flood-hit areas, said he had instructed the state Department of Irrigation and Drainage to form an emergency team to look into the main cause of the floods.

He said several areas outside here, including Kampung Sungai Terap in Batu Gajah, were also affected.

Civil Defence Department spokesman Captain Kamarulzaman Ahmad Ghazali said a 10-man team and 10 lorries were deployed to the scene after receiving a call at 5.30am.

As at press time, the floodwaters in the affected areas had receded slightly.

However, Nadzri said the residents had been advised to stay put in evacuation centres.