

Warning of more heavy rain

FAR FROM OVER: Residents told to brace for 'extreme' weather with onset of inter-monsoon season

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ALL evacuees in flood-hit areas here have been advised not to return to their homes as more rainfall is expected in the next few days.

Currently, 1,324 victims are being housed at seven evacuation centres in the district.

The centres are Balai Penghulu Batu 10, Balai Raya Indah Jaya, Taman Seri Nanding Surau, Dewan Datuk Ahmad Razali, Batu 14 mosque, the Sungai Serai primary school and surau.

The Meteorological Department recorded 200mm of rainfall in certain areas during Wednesday's downpour, which was twice the average rainfall that has been recorded in the area.

The downpour caused water levels to rise up to four metres in several areas, forcing victims to take refuge on rooftops until help arrived.

The "extreme" weather is expected to continue due to the inter-monsoon season.

A Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD) spokesman said the inter-monsoon season, which usually begins in early March, would last until the middle or end of next month.

"In the peninsula, thunderstorms and heavy rains are expected during the afternoons until early evenings, especially in the west coast."

He said heavy rains, such as those which caused flash floods on Wednesday, could happen from time to time during this period.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, who visited the evacuation centres in Hulu Langat yesterday, said the government would take care of the victims until it was safe for them to return home.

"We will ensure adequate food and shelter for the victims.

"Their welfare comes first and we will ensure that they do not lack basic necessities," she said, adding she was grateful to the volunteers who had helped to evacuate res-

idents in flood-stricken villages.

Meanwhile a spokesman for the Department of Irrigation and Drainage said they were liaising with Puncak Niaga and Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas) to avert such incidents.

"Both agencies are in charge of dams and control the water flow. If the rainfall is simply too heavy and the dams and reservoirs are filled to capacity, an early warning can be issued to residents to evacuate flood-prone areas."

Wednesday evening's downpour sent rescue workers scurrying to many areas in the city and the outskirts where people were trapped in flash floods.

Rescue personnel from various agencies worked round the clock to evacuate 191 families in Hulu Langat.

Additional reporting by Nicholas Cheng, Roy See Wei Zhi, Akil Yunus and Ili Shazwani



A bridge, linking Kampung Lembah Jaya Utara and Kampung Bukit Sungai Puteh in Ampang, badly damaged by the floods on Wednesday. Pix by Effendy Rashid and Yong Chee Choong



Taxi driver Halim Mohamad Zain (right) and his friends pushing his damaged taxi to higher ground after floodwaters forced it down a ditch in Kampung Lembah Jaya Utara on Wednesday.

Water woes for over a million

KAJANG: More than a million residents in Hulu Langat and Ampang will be experiencing water shortage following problems at two main water treatment plants caused by Wednesday's downpour.

Syabas chief executive officer Datuk Ruslan Hassan said the Ampang intake water treatment plant was damaged and would be closed for four days to facilitate repairs.

"It is an old plant and the exceedingly heavy rain caused damage that needed immediate attention."

He said the Hulu Langat water treatment plant was operating lower than its normal capacity due to high turbidity of water from Sungai Langat.

"The water has higher content of floating particles, sand, mud and sediments than usual due to the downpour. We will have to spend more time treating it. The plant is expected to be operating at full capacity within 24 hours."

He said Syabas raised the emergency response plan to Code Yellow in

Gombak, Kuala Lumpur and Hulu Langat at 7am yesterday.

"We are supplying water temporarily from the Wangsa Maju treatment plant to several areas in Ampang but this will still leave some 8,225 households facing disruptions."

He said Syabas had more than 230 tankers on standby to supply water to affected areas. The affected areas are Kampung Ampang Campuran, Lembah Jaya Utara, Kampung Tasek Permai, Kampung Tasek Tambahan Ampang, Mesra Ria Apartment, Taman Dagang Jaya, Taman Ampang Saujana, Lembah Jaya Selatan, Kampung Ampang Indah, Mulia Jaya and Kampung Bukit Sungai Putih.

Affected residents can contact the Puspel customer service centre toll-free line at 1-800-88-5252 or SMS by typing Puspel complaints/enquiry and send to 39222. They can also lodge complaints by typing "puspel" or "puspel syabas" on Facebook and Twitter.

Dad recounts vain rescue bid

KUALA LUMPUR: Raja Hazlan Raja Hussin was standing next to his son, Raja Muhammad Irfan, when a landslide hit their double-storey government quarters in Jalan Belfield, Kampung Attap, here on Wednesday night.

Hazlan, a chief clerk at federal police headquarters in Bukit Aman, said one minute he was standing near his son, the next thing he knew the boy was buried under tonnes of mud.

"I cried for help and began digging with my bare hands. I was calling out his name," he said.

Hearing the commotion, Hazlan's neighbour also came to help and telephoned for the ambulance and the fire and rescue team.

Some 15 minutes later, they managed to pull Irfan out.

"His pulse was weak, but he was alive," said Hazlan.

The teenager was rushed to Hospital Kuala Lumpur.

However, he succumbed to his injuries about an hour later.

Irfan, the third of five siblings, was the only reported casualty of the downpour which lashed the Klang Valley on Wednesday evening and caused many to evacuate their homes due to flash floods.

Hazlan described Irfan, a Form One student of Methodist Boys' School, as a very soft-spoken and obedient boy.

"We told him to collect the clothes which were hanging in the backyard when the landslide occurred," the



Raja Muhammad Irfan was killed in a landslide

grief-stricken father said.

Irfan's body was taken to his mother's hometown in Kampung Belimbing, Tanah Merah in Kelantan for burial yesterday.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Ismail Omar offered his condolences to Hazlan and his family after handing them and seven other families, who were affected by the landslide, cash donations.

The affected families were yesterday evacuated to temporary quarters at the Police Training Centre in Jalan Semarak.



Civil Defence Department personnel heading for a house at Batu 11, Hulu Langat, where family members sought refuge on the roof at the height of the floods.



Flood victims collecting blankets and pillows distributed at Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Serai, Batu 11, Hulu Langat.