

'Flood system could not cope'

NO LET-UP: Dept to review measures as more rain is expected in the next few days

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THE flash floods which hit several parts of the Klang Valley on Tuesday evening were due to heavy rainfall.

Federal Territory Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) director Abu Bakar Mohd Yusof said the Sungai Keroh catchment pond had spilled over, causing areas in Segambut, Kepong and Sentul to

be flooded.

"The Flood Mitigation and Storm Water Management System was in full operation but it could not cope with the volume of water, even after DID's diversion to two other ponds."

Abu Bakar said DID checks in Taman Sri Sinar and Batu Detention recorded 130mm of rainfall, which is considered high.

"The volume of rain recorded, especially at the flood-struck areas, was higher than the usual," he said, adding that this was not the first

time it had happened.

He said the floods caused by the overflowing catchment ponds had made the department very concerned and it had decided to review its flood mitigation system.

"It is important to study how we can improve the system to prevent the overflow and floods as rainfall volume is unpredictable.

"So if there is a better system to divert the water faster, regardless of its volume, it should be looked into."

For that reason, Abu Bakar said the department had hired a consultant and the first meeting would be on Aug 27.

The Meteorological Department warned Malaysians to keep a watch out for possible floods as rain and

thunderstorms had been forecast for the next two days.

"Weather forecasts indicate early morning rain in Selangor, Malacca, Negri Sembilan, Perak, Kedah and Penang," said a department spokesman.

The weather was expected to worsen in the evenings, with heavier rainfall and thunderstorms forecast in parts of Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Perlis, Kedah, Penang, Perak, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Malacca, Johor, Sarawak and Sabah, including Labuan.

"However, in Kelantan and Terengganu, thunderstorms are expected in the evening, at almost dusk, for the two days," he said, adding that from Saturday, the weather would improve.

Fire and Rescue Department corporate communications head Morni Mamat said the department was prepared to render assistance in case floods occur.

In Tuesday's flood rescue operations in Segambut, some 50 firemen from four stations helped three residents to safety.

Morni said the department's personnel responded to the calls for help between 4.04pm and 5.27pm.

"Those rescued were a physically-challenged man, who was caught by floods in the vicinity of the Al-Ubudiah Mosque in Segambut Dalam, and a baby boy and his mother trapped at their home near the Keretapi Tanah Melayu station."



NO WATER TOO DEEP

Several motorists **braving the flood** along the **Johor Baru-Mersing road** yesterday, while others alight from their vehicles and **wait for the waters to recede**. Water rose at the stretch between Km46 and Km48 after a downpour which began at 4pm, causing about **1,000 vehicles to be stranded**. Traffic policemen were present to manage the situation until the floodwaters receded about 7pm. **Pic by Ahmad Othman**