

Flood situation improves in three states

KUALA LUMPUR: The respite from rains saw the flood situation improving in lower Perak, Malacca and Johor while the situation in Selangor remained unchanged.

In **Ipoh**, the number of victims sheltered at SK Changkat Jong, which is the biggest flood relief centre in Hilir Perak, remained at 134 from 41 families.

In another flood relief centre at the Sungai Manik multipurpose hall in Chikus near here, 43 people from 11 families are housed there.

Several low-lying villages were inundated when Sungai Bidor overflowed on Saturday.

Kampung Batu 8 villager Fauziah Nordin, 50, said her home in Changkat Jong would always be flooded at this time of the year.

"It is a yearly affair for us to stay at SK Changkat Jong during the school holidays," she said, adding that her family would put up at the school for at least five days.

Her husband, Mohd Nawawi Osman, 50, said this time, the flood waters did not enter their home as he had increased the height of the foundation.

"Thankfully, renovation works were completed before the floods hit," said the security guard.

Kelab Putera 1Malaysia has opened a store in Temoh, Tapah, to keep essential goods during floods.

Its president, Datuk Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim, said the store would service Perak, Kedah, Penang and Perlis.

"We will keep at least 500 mattresses and blankets in the store," he said yesterday after visiting flood victims at SK Changkat Jong.

In **Malacca**, the number of victims from the Jasin and Melaka Tengah districts came down to 102 as of 8am yesterday, compared with 107 on Tuesday night.

A state flood operations room spokesman said 98 people from 21 families in Kampung Tehel were housed at SK Tehel while four people from two families in Kampung Jalan Tebing Tinggi were sheltered at the Demang Husin Hall in Bukit Katil.

In **Johor**, the number of flood victims came down to 1,846 as of 10am yesterday as 133 more victims returned home.

Another flood relief centre in the

Batu Pahat, the worst affected district, has been closed, leaving 15 others in the state, including one in Kluang, open.

In **Selangor**, 1,820 flood victims from Sepang and Kuala Langat have taken refuge at two relief centres as of 8am yesterday, said a state operations room spokesman.

He said 1,071 from 224 families were sheltered at SK Rancangan Tanah Belia (RTB) Bukit Changgang while 749 from 194 families were placed at the Multipurpose Hall in Jalan Kebun Baru.

Overall, the flood situation in Dengkil has improved as the water level in Sungai Langat came down to 5.3m from 7.8m on Sunday.

A breeder was forced to rescue his chickens in Kampung Bukit Changgang by boat.

He had to resort to this measure after the main road to his chicken farm was cut off by floodwaters since Monday.

"We worked from 3pm to midnight. In the past two days, we managed to bring out 6,000 chickens, which we sold to middlemen for RM4.10 each," said farm manager Mohd Sharul Haizam.

The 29-year-old said the floods killed 2,000 mature chickens worth

RM20,000.

He said they managed to rescue some chickens using their lorry when the floods first hit the farm.

"Before the floods, we had about 40,000 mature chickens ready to be sold."

At RTB Bukit Changgang, several families went back to their houses to check on their belongings after the flood waters receded.

Bank Islam chief cashier Nor Azam Ismail, 45, was happy that the floodwaters had receded below the knee level.

"I came back to inspect our home and even though we could not move in yet, at least we know our home is all right."

Meanwhile, the government has given an assurance that prices of vegetables and other essential items will not be affected by the floods.

Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said yesterday the welfare of the people would be taken care of, adding that the government would make sure the prices did not go up.

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