

Rainy evenings in next 4 days

GLOOMY SKIES: Rising water levels in Negri prompts agencies into action

KUALA LUMPUR

MORE evening rainstorms are expected over the next four days in most states throughout the country.

The gloomy weather forecast comes amidst reports of rising water levels in parts of Negri Sembilan, after Malacca and Johor were also hit by floods earlier this week.

About 34 people from eight families in Kampung Keru Hilir, in

Seremban had to be transferred to the village surau yesterday after their homes were submerged in knee deep water due to heavy rain.

Government agencies, including the police, Fire and Rescue Department, Civil Defence Department Malaysia, Welfare Department, members of the District Office and the District Council were all on the scene to help out.

Housewife Halijah Samsudin, 40, said she and her husband Mohamad Mohamad Farid, 46, had to brave knee-high waters to rescue their six-month old baby, Airil Israfa, from drowning.

"I was lucky as I had packed all our clothes and other essentials into two big bags earlier this week. I did it because I knew the constant rain would bring floods."

The situation is unlikely to get better with scattered thunderstorms forecasted in the state over the next three days.

However, there was some good news in Perak where the last remaining flood relief centre at SK Changkat

Jong in Teluk Intan was closed yesterday.

All 134 flood victims from 41 families who had sought temporary shelter at the school since last

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housewife

Sunday were finally allowed to return home. A total of five relief centres were opened since floods hit the Hilir Perak district here last Saturday.

Checks by the *New Straits Times* showed that massive cleaning up were taking place in some of the affected villages.

State Welfare Department director Datuk Chong Phaik Kee said the department would assess the losses suffered by the victims and compensate them accordingly.

In **Johor**, the number of those seeking temporary shelter had also decreased with only 439 people from 116 families still unable to return to their homes.

In **Klang**, 90 flood victims in Dengkil celebrating Deepavali were given something to cheer about when they were given cash

handouts of RM50 each courtesy of several non-governmental organisations to do their last-minute shopping at the Gayathri Silk Sarees Palace.

A Selangor National Security Council spokesman said the NSC decided to hand the contributions to 26 affected Hindu families.

"We wanted to cheer up the victims whose Deepavali celebrations have been dampened no thanks to the floods."

He said the NSC had also donated provisions such as milk powder, biscuits, cooking oil and other essential items worth RM100 to each household.

Flood victim, housewife, R. Leela, 52, said that her house was flooded at 2am yesterday and it caught everybody sleeping upstairs by surprise.