



It is business as usual for **R. Sathia** at his shop in Pekan Kupang. Pic by Safuri Kamarudin

5,000 hit by flash floods

CLEAN-UP BEGINS: About 100 evacuees return home after waters recede

ADIB POVERA

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A THREE-HOUR long downpour triggered flash floods which inundated 30 villages here on Saturday evening.

Some 5,000 people from 600 families were affected when the Sungai Ketil burst its banks and flooded their homes at 6pm.

However, only about 100 people from seven villages were forced to seek refuge at temporary shelters within their respective housing estates.

The affected were from Kampung Tanjung Merbau, Gua Reban, Teluk Durian, Landak Hilir, Lela, Raja and Padang Cina.

At press time, all evacuees had been allowed to return to their homes as water at the residential areas subsided.

However, a daunting task awaited villagers as they returned home and began clearing out mud

and debris in the aftermath of the flash flood.

Checks by the *New Straits Times* showed the villagers at the district affected busy cleaning their houses.

Barber R. Sathia, 24, said despite the flash flood, it was business as usual at his shop in Pekan Kupang near here.

"I could not afford to close my shop as there were customers that I had to attend to."

Recalling the incident, Sathia said the downpour started at 3pm before it triggered a flash flood three hours later.

"There was a customer at the shop when water started flooding the premises.

"I only closed my shop after my last customer left."

Civil Defence Department operations and rescue chief Riduan Safin said his men would continue to monitor the affected areas even though flood waters subsided.