

Flash floods hit Rantau Panjang

KOTA BARU: Heavy rainfall in Kelantan since Friday brought flash floods to several low-lying areas here, forcing villagers to move their belongings to higher grounds.

The most affected was the area along the Sungai Golok in Rantau Panjang, which includes Kampung Terusan, Kampung Bukit Lata and Kampung Lubok Jong.

Villagers said yesterday they had to make early preparations to move their belongings such as furniture, vehicles and even livestock to avoid having them swept away by floodwaters.

"We have to take this precaution to prevent possible damage even though the flood has yet to really hit our area," said trader Ali Mohamad of Kampung Lubok Jong.

Housewife Azizah Ismail said many started to move their belongings, some to their relatives' homes located on higher ground, following the heavy rainfall since yesterday morning.

The three villages are among 20 places that are commonly hit by the flood when Sungai Golok overflowed its bank.

Only Sungai Golok recorded above the alert level yesterday while other state flood assessment points were still well below normal.

As at 4pm yesterday, the depth of Sungai Golok measured at 7.66m.

The Meteorological Department has issued heavy rain warnings (yellow stage) in Kelantan, covering the districts of Tumpat, Pasir Mas, Kota Baru, Bachok, Pasir Putih and Machang, starting from today until Tuesday.

This means floods are expected over low-lying areas.