

PRIME NEWS

Floods ease but alert on for new wave

GO ON HOME: Number of victims in relief centres goes down

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THE situation in flood-stricken areas in Terengganu and Kelantan is improving, with the number of flood victims placed at evacuation centres going down and roads starting to open to traffic.

In **Kota Baru**, only five victims remain at relief centres in Tumpat compared with 1,958 on Saturday.

A Drainage and Irrigation Department spokesman said the rest of the victims were allowed to return home in stages since Friday evening.

"The authorities expect the situation to return to normal soon and the remaining victims will be able to return to their homes."

The spokesman said only Jalan Pasir Mas-Pohon Tanjung-Rantau Panjang was still closed to all traffic due to flood erosion.

Checks in Rantau Panjang showed that all premises, including the duty-free zone, which were forced to shut down for almost a week, resumed operations yesterday.

In **Kuala Terengganu**, only 662 people remain in six evacuation centres in Dungun and Kuala Terengganu as of 4pm yesterday.

All flood relief centres in the worst-hit Kemaman district were closed yesterday and all evacuees were allowed to return home.

At the height of the floods on Friday, 12,000 people were evacuated in Kemaman and over 16,000 statewide.

State National Security Council public relations officer Ahmad Redza Arshad said the sunny weather was expected to be followed by a second wave of heavy rain.

"We expect more will be allowed to return home as the weather was good for the past few days. However, we are still on flood alert as there could be a second wave of floods."

In **Tumpat**, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the Armed Forces' medical team and facilities like the mobile kitchen would be sent to flood-hit areas if the need arises.



(Clockwise from top) Army personnel helping staff of the **Desa Kampung Seberang Tayur library** clear out its damaged books; Wan Hanif Haikal Wan Fauzi, 10, setting his shoes and schoolbag out to dry in Kampung Seberang Tayur in Kemaman; army personnel clearing out furniture at SK Rancangan Kemajuan Tanah (RKT) Seberang Tayor, Kemaman; and the state of **Kampung Sungai Ayam Laut, Batu Pahat** yesterday. Pix by Syarafiq Abd Samad, Sairien Nafis and Mustapha Ismail

He said all assets at the divisions and brigades-level would be used to assist the state flood council and government agencies in their work in flood-hit areas.

"The medical teams will be sent if the Health Department cannot cope with the workload.

"At the same time, the mobile kitchens will be deployed to the areas if there are not enough facilities," he said after visiting flood victims at SK Pengkalan Kubur 2 here yesterday.

