

Floods at schools drain RM2.63mil from govt coffers

HULU TERENGGANU: The Government has incurred losses amounting to some RM2.63mil due to the recent floods that struck schools in the east coast.

Terengganu recorded the highest amount at RM1.9mil involving 39 schools, followed by Kelantan at RM424,900 (34 schools) and Pahang at RM309,650 (one school).

Deputy Education Minister Dr

Mohd Puad Zarkashi said the losses included damage to chairs and tables, as well as computers at the schools.

Landslides also contributed to the losses, such as at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Kuala Jeneris here and an integrated fully residential school in Kuantan, Pahang.

"At SMK Kuala Jeneris, the landslide hit an unoccupied hostel," he

said during a visit to one of the affected schools, Sekolah Kebangsaan Tengku Ampuan Intan, here yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Public Works Department has found three blocks of the Kuantan school – comprising the girls' hostel, dining hall and the school principal's living quarters – to be unsafe.

Owing to this, the Education

Ministry has postponed the registration of Form Two, Three and Four students to Jan 6. Form One students will only register on Jan 13, and the Form Four new students on Jan 29.

Dr Mohd Puad said the ministry also decided to temporarily relocate 271 students at the hostel to a shop-house, about 1.5km away, for three months.

On the ministry's remedial action

to overcome the flood problem commonly faced by schools in Hulu Terengganu, Dr Mohd Puad said they had sought the cooperation of the Drainage and Irrigation Department.

"Because Hulu Terengganu is on a lowland, the process also involves other quarters," he said. "We are aware that building a comprehensive new drainage system would incur hefty costs." — Bernama