

Floods cause RM2.63m damages to schools

LESSONS DISRUPTED: Government will immediately carry out repairs to 74 schools in the east coast

**SATIMAN JAMIN AND
BAHAROM BAKAR**

HULU TERENGGANU
news@nst.com.my

THE government incurred around RM2.63 million in losses during the recent floods that struck schools in the east coast, said Deputy Education Minister Dr Mohd Puad Zakarshi said yesterday.

He said the losses included damage to school property, such as chairs, tables and computers.

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

Damage from landslides, such as the ones at SMK Kuala Jeneris here and the Integrated Boarding School in Kuantan, Pahang, which occurred on Dec 31, also contributed to the losses, he said.

"The Public Works Department has declared three blocks of buildings at the boarding school in Pahang to be unsafe. Form Two classes had to be postponed until Monday.

"The new intake of students for Form One is postponed to Jan 13, and intake of students for Form Four delayed until the end of this month.

"The ministry has also directed the Pahang Education Department to rent a building as a temporary hostel for 271 female students as the girls' hostel was declared unsafe," he said after visiting SK Tengku Ampuan Intan, SMK Kuala Jeneris and SMA Mahmudiah yesterday.

Although the buildings were not buried by the landslide, preventive measures had to be taken as the

structures could develop cracks.

"The ministry has allocated RM309,603 for repair works on the slope where the landslide occurred."

He said a post cabinet meeting chaired by Education and Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on Wednesday had decided to repair all damages and replace all destroyed equipment immediately.

As of press time (6pm) yesterday, Bernama quoted the National Security Council portal as saying that the situation in flood-hit Kelantan and Terengganu remains unchanged.

In Terengganu, 41 evacuees were being accommodated at two relief centres, 20 of them at the Batu 24 community hall here and 21 from Setiu in Kampung Nyatoh.

In Kelantan, another 23 people in Tanah Merah had to be moved, bringing the total to 41.

A spokesman from state flood operations room said the existing 18 victims in Pasir

Putih had been taking shelter at SK Bukit Awang since Tuesday. The victims from Tanah Merah included six children.

"They were the latest to be affected when the second wave of floods hit Kelantan."

The spokesman also said the villages were submerged under 1m of water after Sungai Golok in Jenob rose to 24.66m, or 1.16m above the danger level, yesterday.

He said water levels of other rivers in the state were also on the rise but remained below danger levels.

"Sungai Golok in Rantau Panjang almost reached its danger level of 9m yesterday but the other rivers were still at their normal levels."



**"The Public Works
Department has
declared three
blocks of
buildings at the
boarding school in
Pahang to be
unsafe."**

**Dr Mohd Puad
Zakarshi**
deputy education
minister