

Kedah still in danger

WORRYING: Pendang district flood evacuees continue to rise

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WHILE the flood situation in Perak has shown a significant improvement, Kedah is still showing signs of concerns, especially in Pendang district.

The number of flood evacuees in Pendang had jumped from 40 on Tuesday to 250 as of yesterday evening.

A state Flood Operations Centre spokesman said all the victims,

from Mukim Ayer Putih, Mukim Guar Kepayang, Mukim Padang Pusing and Mukim Bukit Raya, were being housed at the Kompleks Rakan Muda in Tanah Merah, Pendang.

In Kota Setar and Baling districts, the number of flood evacuees had dropped to 110 yesterday from 495 on Tuesday.

"More evacuees will be allowed to return home soon if the weather improves in the next one or two days," said the spokesman.

In Kuala Nerang, Padang Terap member of Parliament Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said 200 rescuers, comprising policemen, Fire and Rescue Department personnel and Civil Defence Department volunteers, were put on high alert because of continuous rainfall in the district.

"The water level at Sungai Padang Terap has reached a dangerous level following persistent



Siti Aisyah Yaakob, 58, looking at the mess in her house after returning home yesterday following flash floods in Kampung Lebu Banting, near Tasek Gelugor, on Sunday. Pic by Danial Saad

rainfall over the past three days.

"Besides the manpower, a temporary relief centre has been set up to house flood victims," he said after attending a briefing by the Padang Terap assistant district officer here yesterday.

In Kepala Batas, 40 people from 11 families remain at the Labuh Banting evacuation centre in Tasek Gelugor near here.

The flood victims are expected to return home by today as flood waters recede.

They are among the 459 people who were evacuated after flash floods hit their homes on Sunday.

An evacuee, Siti Aishah Yaakob, 58, said she returned to her house

and found it in a mess.

"There will be a lot of cleaning up to do and there will be a lot of household appliances to be replaced since they have been rendered useless. The flash floods took us by surprise."

State police have set up a mobile unit to prevent looting in the village and to provide relief work should flash floods recur in the area.

The Perak government has directed the Manjung district office to ensure the widening works of Sungai Batu in Pantai Remis is expedited to address the problem of flooding in the surrounding areas.

Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir said the inability of the river to accommodate excess water because of the downpour was among the factors that contributed to the floods in Manjung district, which started last Saturday.

"The state government is monitoring the flood situation in the district and will continue to provide help to the victims," he said after chairing the state exco weekly meeting here yesterday.

The flood situation in Manjung district showed improvement as at 5pm yesterday.

Pantai Remis Fire and Rescue Department chief Mohd Asri Mohd Ariff said 717 victims from 187 families were still placed at four evacuation centres: SK Sungai Batu, Dewan Orang Ramai Taman Bintang, Dewan Orang Ramai Tebuk Yan and SAR Padang Serai.

He said flood waters had begun to recede since Tuesday.

"More victims will be allowed to go home in next few days if this situation continues," he said yesterday.

He said prolonged heavy rain and the high-tide phenomenon were the main contributors to the flood situation in the district. **Additional reporting by Balvin Kaur and Roshidi Abu Samah**