

Raya wash-out for 1,000

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ALOR STAR: More than 1,000 people in Pendang, Kubang Pasu and Pokok Sena saw their Hari Raya preparations destroyed by floods that hit the areas since Saturday.

In Pendang, about 15 houses were flooded to depths of between 0.5m and 1.5m, leaving the occupants with no choice but to evacuate to their friends' or relatives' houses.

Sungai Tiang assemblyman Suraya Yaacob said the flooded areas included Kubur Panjang, Kubang Pisang, Lubuk Batu, Lahar Tunjung and Bendang Raja.

She said the police, civil defence and Rela launched an operation on Saturday night to evacuate the flood victims.

"The victims were moved to their relatives' houses nearby and no evacuation centres have been set up so far," she said.

Several small roads were also flooded. One of them, the Tobiar-Kubur Panjang road, had to be closed to light vehicles.

About 60 houses in Kampung Bendang Baru, Kampung Gulau, Lahar Dalam, Permatang Limau, Alor Cina and Lubuk Keriang in Pokok Sena district were flooded and residents were evacuated to their neighbours' homes.

Pokok Sena Umno Youth division chief Haris Che Mat said he would monitor the situation and help the victims.

Parts of Changloon in Kubang Pasu district were among the areas affected

by flood involving almost 10 villages.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Sharizat Abdul Jalil said she had directed the Social Welfare Department officers from the district and the state to be prepared for the worst.

"The flood situation is currently under control. But if the situation requires support, the department will act fast to extend basic needs like food, clothes and shelter," she said in a statement.

In Perlis, 12 flood victims from Kampung Jelempok were evacuated to a community hall.

Civil Defence Department assistant operation officer Sjn Syed Nazri Syed Hassan said that as at 4.30pm yesterday the water level was 0.5m and had started to flow into the Kandis forest and the Kodiang-Jelempok border.

"Currently, we are making preparations at the community hall. The number of victims is expected to increase if it continues to rain," he said.

He attributed Saturday night's flood to the heavy rain in the northern part of Perlis, particularly in the Chuping sugarcane plantation areas, in the last three days.

Sjn Syed Nazri said that so far the Social Welfare Department had sent blankets, mats and food to the victims. — Bernama



FLOOD DAMAGE: Pokok Sena MP Datuk Paduka Abdul Rahman Ibrahim (wearing cap) and Bukit Lada assemblyman Ariffin Man (left) with residents of Kampung Bendang Baru in Pokok Sena checking a section of a road destroyed by floods leading to the village. — Bernamapic