

Floods ruin Hari Raya celebration

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JITRA: Sarjan Ismail Ibrahim's hopes of celebrating Hari Raya at his kampung were ruined when flash floods hit the village yesterday.

The 40-year-old father of two drove with his family from Taiping, where he is based, to be with his mother in Kampung Tok Keong for Hari Raya.

But heavy rain over the past few days wreaked havoc in the kampung, with flood waters rising up to nearly a metre.

The floods forced Ismail and 40 other families from Kampung Tok Keong, Kampung Paya Tok Teh and the surrounding areas in Kandiang to leave their homes.

While most victims stayed in multi-purpose halls and *surau*, Ismail decided to take his family to his in-laws' place in Tunjang.

"Luckily, we saved the

clothes and *kuih raya*."

The water level in Sungai Pendang had risen following the rain, with floods hitting several districts including Kubang Pasu and Pendang.

Bernama reports that more than 1,000 people in Pendang, Kubang Pasu and Pokok Sena saw their Aidilfitri preparations destroyed by floods that hit the areas since Saturday night.

In **Pendang**, about 15 houses were flooded to depths of between 0.5 and 1.5 metres.

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 Department and Rela officers evacuated the flood victims.

In **Pokok Sena**, about 60 houses in Kampung Bendang Baru Kampung Gulau, Lahar Dalam, Permatang Lima, Alor Cina and Lubuk

Keriang were flooded and residents evacuated.

In **Kubang Pasu**, parts of Changlun were among the areas affected by floods that hit almost 10 villages.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said she had directed the Welfare Department to be prepared for the worst.

In **Kangar**, three families in Kampung Jelepok were evacuated to the Jelepok community hall.

Civil Defence Department assistant operation officer Syed Nazri Syed Hassan said as at 4.30pm yesterday, the water level was at 0.5 metre and had started to flow into Kandi forest and the Kandiang-Jelepok border.

Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, who was at Kampung Jelepok to monitor the situation, said food and other necessities would be given to the victims.

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Flood victims making the best of their stay at the flood relief centre in Kampung Lahar, Jitra, yesterday.