

# Beaufort remains flooded

## No respite for interior Sabah district as rain persists



Get The Star Mobile App Now!

By RUBEN SARIO

sario@thestar.com.my

**KOTA KINABALU:** Persistent rain in Sabah's interior is worrying officials in Beaufort despite water levels dropping slightly in some parts of the district.

District officials were hoping the rain would stop so that the situation there could improve, said Beaufort MP Datuk Azizah Mohd Dun.

Azizah, who is Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, said the water levels had gone down slightly in some parts of the district over the past 24 hours.

"However, there are areas that are just beginning to flood. So, it is still worrying especially with signs of more rain to come," she said after distributing food supplies to dozens of families stranded in their homes at Kampung Pintas and Kampung Klias Baru in Beaufort.

She said 1,400 people had been evacuated to five relief centres around the district.

Beaufort residents said the water



**Disaster zone:** The overflowing Padas River flooding parts of Beaufort town.

level was up to three metres in certain parts of the town area but had since receded to about two metres.

They said most of the flooded parts of the district were accessible by boat only.

Beaufort District Officer Mohd Shaid Othman said more than 2,000 people had been evacuated to relief centres as of 3pm, and added that those advised to leave their homes should do so without hesitation.

"Their reluctance to evacuate would only disrupt operations to relocate other flood victims," he said in appealing for all relevant state and federal agencies to better coordinate their assistance to flood victims.

Meanwhile, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Ali Hamsa have flown to Beaufort to

assess the flood situation there.

Together with Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman, Shahidan had also visited the flood-hit districts of Keningau and Tenom on Friday.

Musa said the state disaster committee would help those affected by the severe flooding in Beaufort, Keningau (Sook) and Tenom by distributing food supplies and basic necessities.