

Dept instructed to ensure riverbanks don't fail again

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The state Drainage and Irrigation Department has been instructed to inspect the banks of the two rivers to ensure that they did not give way and flood riverine villages, he said after visiting the evacuees yesterday.

He said the Social Welfare Department would organise the aid to be given to the evacuees.

In Kedah, it was reported that over 100 homes in Yan and Gurun were overcome by flood waters following continuous rain.

The worst hit areas were Kampung Kepala Bukit and Kampung Titi Teras, near the Gunung Jerai foothills.

Nasirah Mustafa, 61, of Kampung Kepala Bukit, said the downpour only stopped at about 1am yesterday.

"But flood waters had already gushed in from the choked canals and monsoon drains into our homes," she said, adding that the family quickly moved their electrical appliances, furniture and other items upstairs.

"But our vegetable plot was destroyed," she said, estimating her losses at over RM3,000.

Despite the heartache to the elders, the chil-

dren had a splashing time in the flood waters.

"It's not always that we can swim in the drains," laughed Muhamad Yusuf Hamir, 14, who frolicked in the water with cousin Irwan Mat Saar, 13, and friend Muhamad Najib Nasir, 13.

Norapisah Suib, 29, from Kampung Sungai Ibor in Gurun, said she was unable to save her belongings in time as the waters from the swamp behind her house rose swiftly within 10 minutes.

"The last time this happened here was seven years ago but this is the worst ever," she added.

Gurun assemblyman Dr Leong Yong Kong said several villagers had to seek shelter in the surau or with relatives.

In Kuala Lumpur, the Sungai Pusu that burst its banks on Wednesday was blamed for the floods at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) campus in Gombak after a two-hour downpour.

An IIUM spokesman said the river, which runs through the campus, became shallow due to soil erosion from nearby development projects.