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Kelantan braces for more floods

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KOTA BARU: Kelantan may face another round of major floods in December if half of the monsoon rains falls over five consecutive days.

State Drainage and Irrigation Department director Lim Chow

Hock said the rainfall this month had been higher than average for October, resulting in more water in river basins here.

"Therefore, if half of the rain falls for five straight days during the monsoon period, there is a high probability of floods recurring," he said.

The districts classified as high risk are Kuala Krai, Machang, Pasir Mas, Tumpat, Kota Baru and the border town of Rantau Panjang.

"Preparation can ensure minimal losses to property, crops and lives during the monsoon," he said.

Another consideration was the high tide at sea which tended to be higher than river water levels during the same period, Lim said, adding that it could cause the waters to spill over faster.

Lim said while it was fun to play in floodwaters, parents must monitor their children at

all times.

The Government, he added, had allocated a budget for mitigation but it would take time to construct the necessary infrastructure to battle floods here.

"We have been allocated RM100,000 annually to battle the year-end floods and have

installed 13 monitoring stations throughout the state to check on water levels," Lim said.

Besides expanding riverbanks and preventing erosion, Lim said the Government had approved the construction of a large dam in the Kuala Krai valley under the 9th Malaysia Plan.