

More shelters open as floods worsen

BY SULAIMAN JAAFARAND T.N. ALAGESH - 23 DECEMBER 2014 @ 8:12 AM

KUALA TERENGGANU: RESIDENTS of Pulau Duyong here were evacuated following high tide that flooded the islet at the Sungai Terengganu estuary.

Residents were rushing to higher grounds and parked their vehicles along the Sultan Mahmud Bridge. Other affected areas included Bukit Tumbuh, Kampung Batin and Seberang Takir. The high tide affected areas in Marang, Rusila and Besut in the state.

In Kelantan, high tide flooded the compound of Tok Aman Bali Resort in Pasir Puteh. Water about knee-deep began flowing into the area at 7pm.

In **Terengganu**, the situation took a turn for the worse in three districts, as the number of victims rose to 5,952 people from 5,189 victims yesterday morning.

Another five relief centres were opened in Kemaman, on top of 17 shelters, and one in Besut (totalling four) and Kuala Terengganu (six).

The state Welfare Department portal said as at 5.15pm yesterday, Dungun recorded the highest number of victims with 2,123 people at 17 relief centres. This was followed by Kemaman with 1,862 people at 22 relief centres, while Kuala Terengganu opened six centres to provide shelter for 1,020 people.

In Hulu Terengganu, 703 victims were evacuated to 11 centres while 186 took shelter at the relief centres in Besut. The portal stated that 36 people were at a centre in Marang, while 22 people were housed in Setiu at two relief centres.

Terengganu National Security Council acting secretary Roslina Ngah said as at 2pm, Sungai Chalok at the Chalok Bridge and Sungai Setiu at the Permaisuri Bridge had exceeded their danger levels.

In **Pahang**, the number of evacuees in Kuantan rose to 693 victims yesterday evening compared to 108 in the morning, with Kuala Lipis becoming the second district to be affected by the floods when two people were evacuated.

A police spokesman said several stretches of roads — Km31 of Jalan Kuantan-Sungai Lembing, Km34 of Jalan Kuantan-Maran near Bukit Gambang Resort and Jalan Pekan Sungai Lembing — were inundated while the road to Sungai Lembing town, 70km from here, has been cut off.

In **Kelantan**, the number of evacuees have dropped from 22,000 to 16,084 as of Sunday evening. The sole evacuation centre at SK Tiong here was closed yesterday as the situation returned to normal.

According to the state flood operations room, the number of victims in Pasir Mas as at 6.30pm yesterday was 10,575, Tumpat (4,124), Kuala Krai (440), Pasir Putih (556), Tanah Merah (148), Machang (19), Gua Musang (62) and Jeli (160).

However, five centres were reopened in Gua Musang and one in Jeli after the districts were hit by floods again.

The level of Sungai Galas in Dabong was measured at 39m (danger level 38m), Sungai Lebir in Tualang was 37.8m (35m), Sungai Kelantan at the Krai Steps was 27m (25m) and Sungai Golok in Rantau Panjang was 10.4m (9m). **Additional reporting by Zarina Abdullah and Rosli Zakaria**