

857 flood evacuees still housed at centres in Sarawak

KUCHING: A total of 857 flood victims from 213 families are still at four evacuation centres in Sarawak, says the state National Security Council.

Sibu Division had the highest number of victims, at 656 from 166 families, a spokesman said yesterday, adding that these people from the Selangau District were all at one evacuation centre.

In Betong, some 151 flood victims

from 28 families were sheltering at two evacuation centres.

In Mukah, 50 victims from 19 families were staying at an evacuation centre.

Meanwhile, Tamin state assemblyman Datuk Joseph Mauh Ikeh advised occupants of longhouses often affected by floods in the Selangau district to relocate to higher ground.

He said the government would

help with funds to level the new longhouse site.

"Many longhouse communities are reluctant to relocate from the riverside because they have become used to travelling by boat and fishing in the river.

"Many of the longhouses can now be accessed by road and they can relocate to higher ground near the access road," he told reporters after visiting a flood evacuation centre at

SJKC Tong Ah here.

Joseph Mauh said 70% of the 300 longhouses in the district had been relocated to higher ground near the access road.

He also said all the longhouses in the district were expected to be linked by road by 2019.

Joseph Mauh said three boats with outboard engines would be made available in Selangau for the evacuation of flood victims in the future.

He advised the relevant authorities to provide blankets, mattresses, mats and such before the flood season for distribution to the people.

Earlier, he handed over foodstuff, blankets, disposable diapers and other items provided by the Sibu branch of the Federal Agricultural Marketing Board, Department of Civil Defence and Social Welfare Department to the flood victims at the evacuation centre. — Bernama