

No end to their woes

Frequent flooding severely affecting lives of villagers in Padang Jawa



Story and photo
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LOSING school books and uniforms in the Padang Jawa floods on Tuesday has left victims worried whether their children would be able to go to school.

Some 15 children were forced to give school and exams a miss due to floods that hit Sg Rasau, Manimaran and Air Kuning. Floodwaters had risen at 3pm forcing villagers to salvage what they could.

A total of 14 families involving 47 people were evacuated at 11pm to the Padang Jawa Community Hall.

"We are more worried about our children, we lost everything from books, school shoes and uniforms. The entire cupboard with their school apparel toppled over when the water came in.

My two kids could not go to school because of this and we do not know if we can afford to replace these items," said S. Margert, 46.

Vanitha Jayabaran, 15, said her brother missed his examinations yesterday and their biggest worry was that he would not be allowed to re-sit the papers.

Vanitha said her exams would be held next week but would not be able to go to school now that they were without school uniform and stationery.

"This is not the first time this has happened, in fact this year alone we were evacuated three times to this hall. Some of us saved up money to buy new refrigerator and washing machine but now everything have



Worrying situation: Vanitha and Vani Andyapen, 12, walking through the floodwaters that have affected their homes in Padang Jawa.

been destroyed," added another victim, D. Sakunthala.

Victims are also worried about the health conditions of the elderly residents. One senior citizen, L. Santhanamary, 71, had fainted at the height of the flooding on Tuesday afternoon.

"We really hope the Government can give us temporary homes nearby. We cannot afford to move out on our own," added Santhanamary.

Padang Jawa Village Security and Development Committee (JKKK) chairman Saian Asmari said the situation was bad and the flood evacu-

ees require immediate help.

"The best thing for these people is to relocate them because it is difficult to live in such conditions.

The area near Section 7, Shah Alam was the main water retention area but now with all the developments, there is no proper place for rainwater to flow," he added.

One of the main cause for the flooding, said Saian was the bridge built across the highway from Sg Rasah to Section 7 that has clogged the drains.

Saian said whenever it rains, the drains near the bridge would fill up

and water will only recede if the drains were cleared.

He said an irrigation project was carried out at Sungai Rasah middle of last year, however two months ago, works have stopped.

Saian said if the irrigation work was completed, the flooding woes should reduce in time.

For now, they have provided sleeping material including one blanket per family with the help of the Welfare Department.

The JKKK had also arranged for food and will seek financial assistance for the affected residents.