



Motorists moving through floodwaters in Jalan Kampung Relau, Bayan Lepas, yesterday. Pic by Zulaikha Zainuzman

Supermoon thunderstorm hits Penang

GEORGE TOWN: A five-hour “supermoon” thunderstorm saw parts of the state go under water last night.

Some 500 homes in Jalan P. Ramlee, Jalan Perak, Relau and Balik Pulau were flooded in 1m of water.

The worst hit was Jalan P. Ramlee and in the low-lying areas of Balik Pulau where roads were cut off by floodwaters. On the mainland, the worst hit areas were in Butterworth,

especially Thamby Kechik, Taman Bunga Raya and Bagan Ajam.

The downpour, which began at 6pm, lasted five hours. There were no evacuations reported.

State Welfare, Caring Society and Environment committee chairman Phee Boon Poh said the flash floods were turning into an “annual” event, due to high tide during the full moon.

“It is more apparent during the sixth and seventh lunar moon of the year. We have advised all residents in low-lying areas to take precautionary measures earlier.”

The so-called supermoon thunderstorm, occurred when the moon is closest to Earth.

The moon appears 14 per cent larger and 30 per cent brighter than when it is at its furthest distance.