

Army sends aid to stranded villagers

1,000 affected by Kota Belud mudfloods



Nowhere to go: Kg Melangkap residents looking at the damage to their village following mudfloods near Mount Kinabalu.

KOTA KINABALU: The military has been called in to send supplies to more than 1,000 villagers cut off by mudfloods over the past two days in the northern Kota Belud district.

The mudfloods, which occurred following continuous heavy rain, washed away a bridge that connected several villages in Melangkap to the main road.

Tree trunks and boulders in the mudflow were too strong for the bridge.

A home-stay was also destroyed but no one was reported injured.

Kota Belud Fire and Rescue Department operations chief Francis Sembee said the situation was at its worst on Thursday night but improved yesterday afternoon when the weather cleared.

"Now, apart from Public Works Department

engineers working towards repairing the cut-off road, we have the military assisting in supplying food to the affected victims," he said.

Francis said although the water level at the Kadamaian-Tempasok river – which flows through the Melangkap area on the foothills of Mount Kinabalu – had subsided, they were not taking any risks.

"There are no casualties so far and we have not ordered anyone to evacuate but villagers have to be prepared for it should rain fall again and the situation worsens," he said.

"The debris is from the June 5 Mount Kinabalu earthquake and subsequent mudfloods," Francis said, adding that recurring mudfloods at villages around the mountain were expected to hit each time a continuous downpour occurred.