

Perlis and Kedah hit by flash floods

KANGAR: Heavy rain over the past three days has caused floods in low-lying areas in the state.

According to the Perlis National Security Council (MKN), one flood evacuation centre was opened at 9am yesterday, at the Kampung Padang Melaka community hall, Batu Bertangkup, accommodating 50 people from 12 families.

The Civil Defence Department (JPAM) also informed that another centre was opened yesterday at the Kampung Panggas Besar community hall, for about 20 people from five families.

It is learnt that more evacuation centres are opened, including at Mata Ayer and Arau, but the number of evacuees have yet to be determined.

Water level readings in several rivers such as Sungai Pelarit, Sungai Jarum, Sungai Buluh and Sungai Batu Pahat exceeded danger levels.

As at 5pm yesterday, the Drainage and Irrigation Department website showed water levels at most of the stations in the state had returned to normal except for Sungai Repoh, which recorded a water level of 5.13m, above the 4.60m danger level.

In **Changlun**, Kedah, over 1,000 residents from eight villages were reportedly affected by floods following heavy rain since two days ago.

The villages are Kampung Paya Nomi, Kampung Belukar, Kampung Rantau, Pekan Changlun, Kampung

Sungai Petani, Taman Rasa Sayang, Kampung Bendang Ceruk and Kampung Padang Pasir. About 600 houses were affected.

Kubang Pasu district JPAM officer Kamarulzaman Kasa said the floods occurred when Sungai Changlun overflowed its banks at about 4.30am yesterday.

However, he said, so far no households had yet been evacuated.

"So far, the water levels have reached between 0.5m and 1m. People will be evacuated if needed."

Changlun resident, Rozali Man, 50, said flood waters began to seep into his house at about 9am.

"My family has been making early preparations by putting essentials in high places before flood waters began to enter into my single-storey house," he said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak assured that the government would provide help to those affected by the floods in Kedah and Perlis.

Najib, on his Facebook page yesterday, posted that aid would be channelled to the victims, especially to children and those living in flood-prone areas.

"I take note of the flash flood situation in Kedah and Perlis and pray that all of them there are safe."

"The government will continue to monitor the situation and provide immediate assistance to those affected, especially to children and those staying in high-risk areas who must be moved at once." **Agencies**