

Kelantan prepares for monsoon season

PRECAUTION:

Residents near Sg Golok clean drains, prop up homes

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RANTAU PANJANG

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MORE than 200 villagers living along Sungai Golok here are preparing to face the monsoon season.

The villagers said they had to move as a precaution against the flood that normally hit Kelantan before November.

Norita Ibrahim said she and her family had started to clean the drain and bushes near their home this week after they heard about the flash flood in Gua Musang.

"We have to do *gotong-royong* to clean up the area, especially the drain, to prevent water from becoming stagnant.

"We have also strengthened our roof so that it would not be torn off by heavy winds," said the 38-year-old trader from Kampung Rantau Lama.



Rantau Panjang in Kelantan, flooded after **Sungai Golok** overflowed during the monsoon season last year. Villagers have started **preparing their homes** in anticipation of the floods this year.

Odd-job worker Samsul Mohd Nor said many villagers in Kampung Lubok Setol had started preparing their homes in anticipation of the flood.

"Although the rain has yet to hit Kelantan, we believe it is best to start making preparations in advance."

Rantau Panjang is one of the worst-hit areas in the Pasir Mas district in terms of flooding.

More than 1,000 people from the area would normally have to move to the relief centres once the monsoon

season starts.

The Kelantan government said it had made all the necessary preparations.

Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Mohd Amar Nik Abdullah said all relevant agencies should be on alert as well.

"The state government is ready to face the flood season.

"We will hold a meeting with the state security council and other authorities to discuss methods to be taken as preparation for the flood," he said.