

52 families evacuated in Johor

SIMPANG RENGAM: A total of 231 people from 52 families have been evacuated due to floods that have hit eight villages here since Thursday.

Kluang district officer Mohd Fuad Radzuan said among the evacuees were 40 people from 13 families who were relocated to Balai Raya Kampung Seri Maju Jaya.

Another 16 people from five families were seeking shelter at SK Sungai Linau, while 12 people from three families were seeking shelter at Dewan Orang Ramai Kampung Ithnin Maarof.

He said the eight villages that were hit by the floods were Kampung Kolang Air, Kampung Sri Ampangan, Kampung Pisang, Kampung Haji Noor, Kampung Batu 6, Kampung Sungai Rambai, Kampung Parit Jepun and Kampung Paya.

Fuad said the water level in Sungai Benut was still at a dangerous level although it receded to 6.17m yesterday.

The water level was at 6.52m on Thursday, and receded to 6.36m at 10am yesterday.

The Machap Dam was on high



Muhammad Khaiqal Qayyum Sadan (right) and Muhammad Zulfaqqar Muhammad Fauzi pushing a motorcycle in Kampung Sungai Linau in Simpang Renggam yesterday. Pic by Mohd Azren Jamaludin

alert with a water level of 16.99m, while Sungai Machap's water level was at 7.35m as of noon yesterday.

Johor Health and Environment Committee chairman Datuk Ayub Rahmat said the state Drainage and Irrigation Department had been urged to dredge rivers and drains at nearby plantations as a short-term measure to allow floodwaters to flow out.

He said the rising water level in a few villages due to flash floods was traced to poor drainage.

"We are looking at long-term solutions to prevent recurring annual floods by upgrading drainage systems statewide," he said, while confirming that no other districts were

affected by the floods.

Ayub said Johor needed about RM5 billion to tackle the flood woes in the state under the 11th Malaysia Plan.

He said the Federal Government had previously allocated RM500 million for three flood-mitigation projects in Segamat, Gemas and Muar.

It was reported that the flood-mitigation projects — approved following floods in 2006, 2007 and 2011 — were expected to be completed by the end of next year.

Ayub said other districts, such as Kluang, Batu Pahat, Mersing and Kota Tinggi, were also in need of flood-mitigation.