



Houses inundated by floodwaters in **Changkat Jong, Teluk Intan, Perak**. Pic courtesy of the Fire and Rescue Department

# Flood alert in low-lying areas

**PREPARED:** Several areas in Perak and Kedah inundated as Pahang residents fear for the worst

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**T**HE flood situation in Perak is getting worse with more people being evacuated from their homes.

A state Fire and Rescue Department spokesman said as of 3pm yesterday, 364 people from nine villages were forced to leave their houses after the water levels rose.

"The worst hit area was Kampung Padang Serai, Pengkalan Bharu, where 83 people have been evacuated," he said.

The victims sought shelter at Sekolah Agama Rakyat Kampung Padang Seri flood evacuation centre, and seven flood evacuation centres have been opened to house the victims, he said.

Meanwhile, communication between Kampung Bawong and Pos Poi in Sungai Siput was cut off when the road connecting both villages was washed away by floodwaters.

In **Kuantan**, residents in the low-lying areas are having sleepless nights for fear of an impending flood as heavy rain has begun to hit the state over the past few days.

The rain, which sometimes lasts for several hours, has resulted in flash floods in a few low-lying areas including Jerantut and Lipis.

However, residents and motorists were relieved after the water level in some affected roads and villages receded within a few hours after the downpour stopped.

Although the year-end floods have been described as an annual occurrence in the state, residents remained on high alert to respond swiftly and minimise losses.

Despite the state government's assurance that it has made preparations to face the floods, including additional evacuation centres, many people are concerned over the exceptionally high rainfall which can worsen a situation and require a longer time to recede.

Kampung Selamat resident Jam-sari Mohd, 47, said the recent rains spell had put the residents on high alert after the massive floods last year submerged several areas and forced thousands, including his family, to seek shelter at the evacuation centres.

He said villagers were informed to be on standby in case they had to leave their homes for the centres.

However, some chose to overlook the instructions as they feared that their valuables would be stolen.

"The authorities have informed us about the centres and actions to be taken during an emergency.

"It is sad that some people choose to be stubborn and willingly put their lives at risk," he said.

Kampung Tempoyang village headman Abdul Aziz Ali said a four-hour downpour in the village last month caused Sungai Tempoyang in Lipis to overflow into the village, but the water was only knee-high.

However, he said 12 victims in the village chose to remain at home as the water started to recede the following day.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department forecast that heavy rain was expected in Pahang from today to Nov 28, with high tide occurring between Nov 26 and 29.

Heavy rainfall is also expected to hit Pahang between Dec 11 and 18, and Dec 24 and 30, while high tide will occur between Dec 11 and Dec 15, and from Dec 24 to 29.

In **Sungai Petani**, after less than an

hour of heavy downpour, Faezah Busri's house was inundated by floodwaters, which rose rapidly to chest deep.

In panic, the 41-year-old housewife frantically called out to her husband and asked him to save their pets cats, chickens and rabbits.

"At first I thought it was just the usual ankle or knee-deep flood and that is why my husband and I remained composed when water started inundating our house.

"However, I began to panic when the water kept rising up to chest-level and I was scared when we could not open the door due to strong floodwater rush from outside.

"We tried to save our pets as much as possible before moving to another room, which had an elevated area and waited until the water level receded a few hours later before we got out of the house," she said, when reporters met at her house in Taman Tiong, here yesterday.

Faezah said it was the second time her house had been hit by floods this week.

However, she said it was the worst flood they experienced since they moved into the house last year.

She said besides losing 11 hens that were also her source of income, Faezah and her husband who lived from hand-to-mouth, also suffered losses of about RM10,000 when most of her furniture and electrical appliances were damaged by the flood.

Besides Faezah, more than 100 people were affected by the flash flood here following continuous downpour for several hours since 2pm on Sunday.

The situation however, returned to normal yesterday and some 120 people from 22 families here and in Sidam Kiri, who sought shelter at two relief centres, returned home by yesterday afternoon. **Additional reporting by Ili Shazwani**