

## Water road

Construction workers walking through the flooded area along Jalan Wong Ah Fook in Johor Baru. — Pic courtesy of GLORIA LAI



# Kemaman prepared to face flood season

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** If there is an award for a district most prepared to face the flood season, Kemaman will win hands down.

The East Coast district in Terengganu now has three helipads complete with global positioning system (GPS) coordinates that will help cut the time to send food and other assistance.

Kemaman MP Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek said that angry folks would often scold the Government and question where were the helicopters during the floods.

“People are unaware that the helicopters need a place to land and it is not easy to find one,” he said during a briefing on best practices during flood management to Barisan and Opposition MPs and district officers here yesterday.

The three helipads in Kemaman are located at Batu 14 in Kuala Taylor, Felda Seberang Taylor and Pasir Gajah.

The Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister, who won hearts during the 2013 floods went viral, also said that Kemaman has prepared a tide calendar to reinforce the mindset of preparedness.

The district’s Department of Irrigation and Drainage has installed

a web camera near rivers to anticipate overflow.

“We will sound the alarm when the flood hits,” he said.

Hospitals were also listing vulnerable patients – including expectant mothers who were due to give birth during the flood season – for contingency plans.

Ahmad Shabery’s presentation earned him praise from Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim who described Kemaman’s template as “the best”.

“Kemaman’s standard operating procedure follows the same procedure by the National Security Council.

“But, Kemaman has taken it up

one notch and prepared everything early. They do not have much funds, but they have managed to build the helipads regardless,” he added.

Kemaman was the worst hit in Terengganu during the 2012 and 2013 floods.

According to the Malaysian Meteorological Department, Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang are expected to experience rain tomorrow, with the forecast projecting it to last until Saturday.

The warning is currently labelled as yellow, which means that the department is expecting downpour within one to three days.

For the latest updates on rain conditions, log on to [www.met.gov.my](http://www.met.gov.my).