

Yellow alert in Pahang, Terengganu and Johor

'COLD SURGE': Met Dept also warns of heavy rain in the western regions of Sarawak

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HEAVY rain is expected to occur in Pahang and Terengganu from tomorrow until Friday following a cold surge.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department yesterday issued a yellow alert to the two states, which signifies imminent rain in one to three days. Also on yellow alert were Johor and a few areas in Sarawak's western region.

"The cold surge will cause strong northeast winds. Heavy rain will occur in the east coast states and western region of Sarawak.

"Heavy rain and thunderstorms are expected in the west coast states, the interior of Sarawak and the western region of Sabah in the evening and night," read the statement.

Besides the yellow alert, there are

two other colour-coded alerts — orange and red.

An orange alert denotes existing rainfall, which can cause flooding in low-lying areas. A red alert is issued when heavy rains and widespread monsoon rains are expected to persist for several hours.

The district's Social Welfare Department has completed the distribution of food and basic necessities to 15 forward bases here and report readiness to face any eventuality.

A visit to Penor Prison here, one of the 15 forward bases in the district, recently saw items, such as rice, cooking oil, sugar, biscuits, sardine, mats, blankets, mattresses and basic hygiene kits, have already been put in place.

There are 105 forward bases in the state, compared with 84 last year.

In preparing for the floods, the state government has identified 657 evacuation centres that can accommodate 140,000 evacuees.

This year, residents in flood-prone areas in the state will be able to receive alerts on the possibility of floods three days earlier, following cooperation between the state Meteorological Department and state Department of Drainage and Irrigation, thus giving them ample time to prepare.