

## **From Hot To Wet, Malaysians Must Now Brace For Thunderstorms And Flooding, MetMalaysia Warns**



FilePic: AFP

For two consecutive days, the Malaysian Metrological Department (MetMalaysia) has issued thunderstorm warnings for many states including several areas in Perak, Negeri Sembilan, Malacca and Sarawak.

The latest notification dated 11 May warns of thunderstorms and heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds in Hulu Selangor, Gombak, Petalng, Sepang and Hulu Langat in Selangor as well as Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

Some residents were caught unprepared and unable to escape as flood waters rose above 50 cm in parts of Shah Alam when flash floods hit yesterday evening after a thunderstorm lasting 40 minutes.



Pic: Berita Harian

Many pedestrians were trapped and marooned for close to an hour as flood waters rose.

S.Kumar, 42, said when he returned home to Kampung Air Kuning yesterday evening, the entire village was submerged up to thigh high already. The waters did not recede until after 6 pm.

Media reports have also warned that dams which were in danger of running dry last week are now threatening to overflow.

Several major rivers passing through townships such as Shah Alam, Subang and Sungai Buloh are threatening to burst their banks, according to information posted on the Drainage and Irrigation Department's flood information website.

Sungai Damansara in Kampung Melayu Subang rose to 17.72m at 5pm, exceeding the danger level of 17.4m at one point before subsiding.

Sungai Kelang in Tugu Keris, Selangor, has reached 3.63m, just below the danger level of 3.9m whereas Sungai Buloh in Sri Aman measured 6.97m, exceeding the warning level of 6.8m.

Sungai Lenik in Segamat, Johor also rose to 5.6m as of 5pm yesterday, above its alert level at 5m. Its danger level is 6m.

Metrological Department's director-general Datuk Che Gayah Ismail said the heavy squalls are typical during the inter-monsoon season which began in the first week of April and will last until mid-May.

“During this season, there will be frequent rain in many parts of the peninsula, western Sabah as well as western and central Sarawak.”

The worst is not over as Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said that La Nina weather patterns next month will likely herald the arrival of the annual haze that blankets large tracts of Southeast Asia in choking grey smog for months.

- *mD*