

# Terengganu to hold meeting on flood relief

**KUALA TERENGGANU:** Terengganu, which was spared the big floods last year, has yet to hold its disaster management committee meeting, despite signs that the La Nina phenomenon is likely to cause early pre-monsoon storms and possible flooding in low-lying areas.

However, the agencies usually involved in disaster relief have begun flood simulation exercises to ensure they are well prepared and ready to be mobilised during emergencies.

"We may have our first meeting in the next couple of weeks. The agen-

cies and volunteers involved in flood relief operations are experienced. However, they may have to refresh their skills," said state secretary Datuk Othman Muda.

He said the state government was aware of the floods that have hit Penang and Kedah in recent days and was looking at the contributing factors, including studying the La Nina effect when it hit the east coast.

Othman said in the past, the Meteorological Department, the Drainage and Irrigation Depart-

ment, local authorities, the Fire and Rescue Department, police and army played a major role in flood management and operations.

"The important thing is to prevent loss of life and to minimise property damage. Terengganu experiences floods every year and the victims are usually from the same affected areas. As such, experience has created a high level of awareness."

Terengganu experienced three major floods in 2012, 2013, and 2014.

The floods in 2014 was the most disastrous as 50,000 victims were

evacuated to higher ground.

Following the floods in 2014, the government spent RM300 million to implement flood mitigation measures, including dredging to deepen rivers and widen monsoon drains.

Last year, the government identified 521 relief centres and 162 forward bases were supplied with boats, food and other necessities for flood victims.

It also identified four helicopter landing sites to transport food, medical supplies, and to provide evacuation for the critically ill.