

100 villagers evacuated as river overflows

KANGAR: About 100 villagers were evacuated to a flood relief centre when a downpour caused flash floods at Kampung Tebing Tinggi and Kampung Wang Besar in Bintong, Perlis.

The victims were from 22 families living in some 60 houses in the two villages. They have been sheltering at SK Bintong since Wednesday evening.

Perlis Civil Defence Force Malaysia (APM) director Lt-Kol Ishak Mohd Radzi said there was heavy rain on Tuesday night, which continued till Wednesday afternoon.

This caused the river to overflow and flood the villages.

"Fifty APM personnel, 20 policemen, 20 personnel from the Perlis Welfare Department, 15 firemen and four staff from the state Health Department helped with the evacuation," he said.

He said most of the villagers used their own vehicles to shift to the relief centre.

APM was using water pumps from the Muda Agricultural Development Authority and Perlis Drainage and Irrigation Department to help and hoped the floodwaters would subside soon.

Villager Umair Kalsom Abas, 53, from Kampung Tebing Tinggi, said it was the sixth time the village had been flooded that she knew of.

"But this is the worst, I had no



time to save any of my household items.

"I could only think of saving my 83-year-old mother who has difficulty walking," she said.

Umair has been living in the house with her mother, Fatimah Osman, since she was born.

Adnan Ahmad, 66, said his house started flooding at about 3.30pm on Wednesday.

"When I left with my wife and son at about 9.30pm, the water was knee-high," he said.

Fruit trader Ko Eng Tee, 71, and his wife Loo Ah Moy, 66, from Kampung Wang Besar, said their furniture and other household items were damaged in the flood.

"We had no place to sleep so we stayed inside our car the whole night because we are not used to being in a flood relief centre," he said, adding that it will take a long time to clean up their home after the water subsides.

The APM operations centre has a 24-hour hotline, 04-9777991.

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