

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
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Dept ready for second wave despite clear skies

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PETALING JAYA: Although clear skies are forecast, the Fire and Rescue Department is leaving nothing to chance.

It is prepared for the possibility of another wave of floods in the east coast.

"We are on high alert and will remain so until after Chinese New Year when the risk abates," said its director-general Datuk Wan Mohd Noh Ibrahim.

Devastating floods which hit Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Johor earlier this month claimed three lives and forced 40,000 people into flood-relief centres.

The Pahang Meteorological Department last Thursday issued a warning of a possible second wave due to high tides from today to Jan 6.

Wan Mohd Noh said they were ready for any eventuality and have learnt from their experiences during the first wave.

He said there were instances where rescuers were slow in reaching victims due to a breakdown in communication and this was compounded by many roads being blocked by stalled vehicles.

Power outages at some operation centres made it difficult for people to call in for help, he said.

He said cellular communication was also disrupted because there was no power supply to some transmission towers.

"Generators have been brought

We are ready to cancel all leave and mobilise our personnel from other states.

— DATUK WAN MOHD NOH IBRAHIM

in to ensure uninterrupted power or communications," he said.

The department has five helicopters in addition to rescue vehicles and boats on stand-by in peninsular Malaysia.

"We are ready to cancel all leave and mobilise our personnel from other states at a moment's notice," he said.

The Meteorological Services Department central forecast office said they expected mostly clear skies until tomorrow morning.

"No heavy rain has been forecast in any of the states in the next 48 hours," a department spokesman said.

A Bernama report yesterday said that civil servants with housing loan accounts with the Treasury and who were affected by the recent floods can submit insurance claims.

The insurance covers damage to building structures such as walls, floors, roofs and ceilings.

More information can be found at <http://bpp.treasury.gov.my> or the flood helpdesk at 03-8880 2121.

Johor readies trained volunteers to deal with floods

JOHOR BARU: Johor, which had to deal with massive floods about six years ago, have trained volunteers for a possible second wave of floods.

State Welfare Department director Khatijah Abdullah said the 2006-2007 floods, which inundated the Kota Tinggi district with water rising over two storeys high and at least 100,000 people evacuated, had gained "ample experience" in handling such situations.

She said the department had trained about 100 volunteers on ways to manage flood victims, bringing the total number of registered volunteers to about 300.

Khatijah added that half of the department's 600 personnel were ready to be deployed to any of the 645 flood evacuation centres in the state.

"They have been briefed on standard operating procedures on handling flood victims, especially children, the disabled and senior citizens," she said yesterday.

Khatijah also said that her department had allocated two weeks of food supply and basic necessities worth RM500,000, such as mats, clothing, toiletries, blankets and mattresses.

It was reported that the **Meteorological Department** had advised residents in Terengganu, Pahang and Johor to be prepared for heavy rains, followed by high tide and strong winds in the South China Sea.

7,000 stranded in Ulu Baram

Relief ops in full swing as situation worsens in Sarawak interior

By **STEPHEN THEN and YU JI**
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MIRI: Flood relief operations are in full swing as emergency food aid is being rushed to the interior north of Sarawak.

This follows the worsening situation in Ulu Baram, where access for some 7,000 people had been cut off as rain continues.

Several residents from the Marudi district and Long Lama sub-district have called *The Star*, saying they needed food supply.

The division's Welfare Department head Goh Yong Kiat confirmed that it had received appeals for food aid from residents across Baram.

As of yesterday afternoon, he said at least 28 longhouses had been affected by floods.

"We have sent food to 21 of the 28 longhouses and we are arranging for the others. The deployed assistance will help at least 985 families," Goh said, adding that they were liaising with Marudi's district office, which oversees the operations.

Goh said Ulu Baram had been inundated since Dec 22, with some longhouses recording water levels rising over one metre.

In Kuching, heavy rain coupled with high tide caused Bintulu in central Sarawak to be inundated, a rare occurrence for the town.

The rain, which began after noon



Force of nature: An aerial view of a longhouse marooned by floods in Ulu Baram taken by a Star reader.

yesterday, caused several low-lying areas along the coastline to be swamped some two hours later.

By 5pm, flood waters had reach major parts of the inner city.

Among the affected areas were Kampung Assyakirin and Kampung Kemunting.

Kidurong assemblyman Chiew

Chin Sing said floods were still being reported in residential areas further away from the coast, while electricity was cut off.

Many netizens noted that it was rare for Bintulu to be flooded, even when other towns in Sarawak were known to be flood prone.

According to the Meteorological

Department, Bintulu has received 373mm of rainfall since Dec 1, including a whopping 134mm reported on Dec 23 alone.

It also issued a second category warning for strong winds and rough seas expected for thunderstorms in the waters off Sarawak, affecting Rejang, Mukah and Bintulu.

Be prepared for second wave of floods

THE police have asked residents to be prepared and abide by all directives from the authorities if a second wave of floods in Pahang occurs as forecast from today.

Kuantan district police chief ACP Mohd Jasmani Yusoff (*pic*) said 67 flood relief centres which can accommodate 20,415 people have been placed on standby for flood victims here.

He said the sub-districts where the centres were opened are Kuala Kuantan 1 (11), Kuala Kuantan 2 (21), Ulu Kuantan (12), Berserah (two), Sungai Karang (eight), Penor (eight) and Ulu Lepar (five).

"Several car parking sites have also been proposed for the flood victims according to their areas of residence," he said.

He said areas proposed for residents of Permatang Badak, Sungai Isap 1, Sungai Isap Jaya, Taman Guru, Taman Sepakat and Taman Kurnia is the vacant lot adjacent to the Giant supermarket, beside the Kuantan Municipal Council field (MPK), near Kamunting and along the route from Tanah Putih heading to the Permatang Badak traffic lights junction.

Residents of Taman Guru, Gudang Rasau and the Batu



Enam Housing area can park their cars along the access route to SMK Gudang Rassau and on both sides of Jalan Gambang heading to Taman Tas.

Residents around Bukit Rangin and Kuantan ByPass can park their vehicles along the Kuantan-bypass route from the direction of Bukit Rangin heading to Kolej Shahputra and on the empty lot fronting the Jalan Kuantan-ByPass Shell Petrol Station.

Residents around Perkampungan Cenderawasih and Kampung Tengah can park their vehicles in the Indera Mahkota 3 industrial area.

The Pahang Meteorological Department recently warned of the possibility of a second wave of floods occurring in Pahang.

— Bernama