

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN  
TARIKH: 31 DISEMBER 2015 (KHAMIS)**

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# Terengganu evacuees return home

**SHELTER:** 450 people remain at 2 relief centres

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**H**UNDREDS of families displaced by floods in Terengganu have begun making their way home yesterday after monsoon rains lashed parts of the state for three consecutive days eased.

Floodwaters from the overflowing Sungai Terengganu had inundated many homes in Hulu Terengganu and Kemaman.

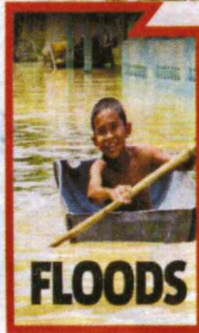
State secretary Datuk Osman Muda, who is also state flood disaster chairman, said as of 8pm yesterday, there were 450 victims from 106 families taking shelter at two relief centres in Kemaman.

"The rest of the affected areas in Besut, Hulu Terengganu, Kuala Terengganu, Marang and Setiu have returned to normal after floodwaters receded.

"This is an improvement from the 1,534 victims from 440 families who were taking shelter at 29 relief centres on Tuesday."

Osman said the remaining displaced families would be housed in relief centres until floodwaters in their areas receded.

"I advise the public to refer to the official source to get information on the floods, landslides, road closures and the number of evacuees, and not rely on unofficial sources as they may cause panic and confusion."



A raft house serves as a grocery store in Kampung Seberang Tayor Hilir in Kemaman yesterday. Pic by Aswadi Alias

He said the official source was the state disaster committee, which comprised the state secretariat, Civil Defence Department, Fire and Rescue Department, Welfare Department and police.

The Meteorological Department warned of strong northeasterly winds of between 40kph and 50kph, and 3.5m-high waves off Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Johor, Sarawak, Labuan and Sabah, which are expected until tomorrow.

"The bad weather is dangerous for small boats, and outdoor recreational and sporting activities as sea levels are expected to rise," said

an official.

Meanwhile, flood victims can get compensation of RM1,000 through the "Kampung Ku Insurance Policy".

Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek said the policy was introduced to ease the burden of victims.

"About 6,000 people in Kemaman

district have subscribed to the policy provided by Allianz General Insurance Company (Malaysia) Bhd.

"The company will make the compensation payout as soon as subscribers lodge a report with them," said Shabery, who is also Kemaman member of parliament.

He said the policy not only covered floods, but also fire and damage to property by storm or lightning.



## Eight Malaysian scientists to conduct research in Antarctica

By PATRICK LEE  
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**PETALING JAYA:** Eight Malaysian scientists will be spending three weeks on a vessel during a research expedition to Antarctica, seen as the first Malaysian journey of its kind.

Coming from six universities here, they will be sailing from Jan 22 to Feb 4 to eight places on the continent to do their research on topics ranging from electromagnetism to medical studies.

"We will be spending three weeks on a yacht," said Universiti Teknologi Mara's (UiTM) Dr Mohamad Huzaimy Jusoh, the trip's lead scientist.

Previous expeditions to the southern continent, said Dr Mohamad, had seen Malaysians being flown there and based at one research station at a time.

Setting off from Malaysia for Argentina on Jan 13, the team will make its way to Ushuaia, the southernmost tip of South America. The yacht they will be on is known as the *Australis*, which sports both sails and a diesel engine.

On Jan 18, they will sail for four days from Ushuaia to Antarctica across the Drake Passage, an area known for unpredictable weather, rough seas and its 5m-high waves.

"It's a mixed feeling for me (going there) ... We have to prepare for the worst. Everyone of us has to prepare a will in case anything happens," he said, adding that it was his first trip there.

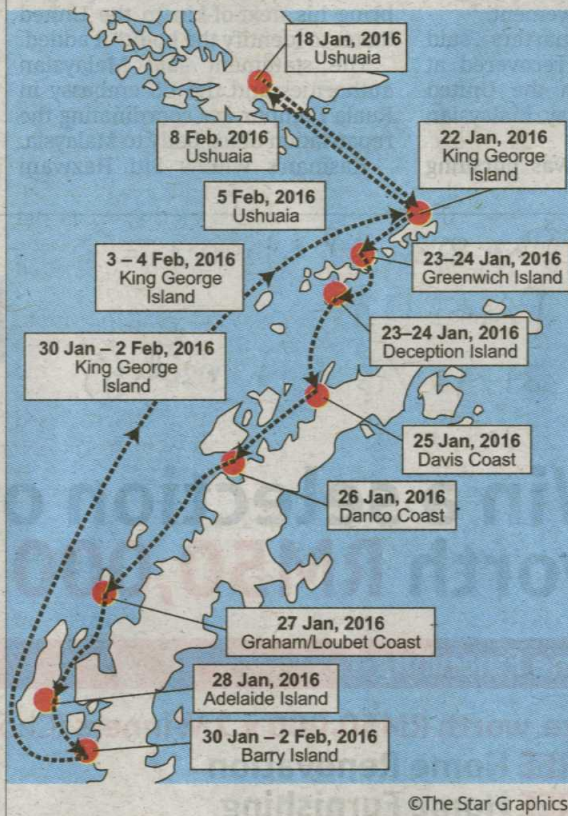
The Antarctica, he added, would be at the peak of summer then, with temperatures of -20°C at the worst.

"It's like visiting the US during winter," laughed Dr Mohamad.

From Jan 22, the scientists, who will be joined by three non-Malaysian crew, will hop from coast to coast, with each carrying out his

### Malaysian Antarctica Expedition 2016

Revised route with dates:



©The Star Graphics

or her own research on the continent, some of which will be on land.

Dr Mohamad's own research will cover electromagnetism on Earth due to space weather and its effects while others will include subjects from climate change to medical studies. The eight will make their way back to Argentina on Feb 5.

The trip is expected to cost about RM400,000, funded partly by the Sultan Mizan Antarctic Research Foundation and the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry.

