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'Bad weather for east coast'

MetMalaysia: Heavy rains expected to continue in several districts

KUALA LUMPUR: Severe weather is expected in several districts in Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang today.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) said heavy rains are expected to continue in Pasir Mas, Jeli, Tanah Merah, Machang, Pasir Puteh and Kuala Krai in Kelantan, as well as in Besut, Setiu, Hulu Terengganu, Dungun and Kemaman in Terengganu.

MetMalaysia alert for Pahang involves Jerantut and Kuantan. The department also issued a weather alert with heavy rains expected in Tumpat, Kota Baru, Bachok and Gua Musang in Kelantan as well as Kuala Nerus, Kuala Terengganu and Marang in Terengganu.

Heavy rainfall is also expected in Lipis, Maran, Pekan and Rompin in Pahang as well as some areas in Sabah, including the west coast (Ranau and Kota Belud), Sandakan (Telupid, Kinabatangan, Beluran and Sandakan) and Kudat.

In Kelantan, the second wave of floods that hit several districts in Kelantan saw the number of evacuees rise to 3,149 victims involving 1,059 families from 2,374 victims as of 5pm yesterday.

According to the Social Welfare Department's Infobencana portal, Jeli recorded the highest number of evacuees with 1,796 victims from 60 families who were taking shelter at 12 centres, followed by Tanah Merah with 926 victims from 235 families at 18 centres. Kuala Krai had 214 victims (60 families) at four centres; Machang,



In safe hands: Asthma patient Darina Mahadi, 35, who is six months pregnant, is given an inhaler after being rescued by members of the Fire and Rescue Department in Kampung Menteliong, Rompin, Pahang. — Berrama

156 victims (50 families) at three centres and Pasir Puteh, 57 victims from 20 families at one centre.

Meanwhile, two major rivers in the state have exceeded the danger level.

The water level of Sungai Kelantan in Kuala Krai rose to 25.24m (above the danger point of

25m) while the reading of Sungai Kelantan at the Guillemeard Bridge was 16.41m (16m).

The Sungai Golok water level in Jenoh, Tanah Merah, had gone up to 25.64m (23.50m), Sungai Golok in Rantau Panjang was at 10.61m (9m) and Sungai Golok in Kuala Jambu rose to 3.30m (2.5m).

The second wave of floods in the state claimed the life of a 52-year-old man from Kampung Renak, Tanah Merah, who was found drowned at about 10am yesterday. According to MetMalaysia, the north-east monsoon started on Oct 24, and is expected to continue until March.

Don't fish in flooded areas, warns district officer

KOTA TINGGI: Fish may be abundant in flooded areas and some may take the opportunity to catch them.

However, they should be careful as they might end up facing dangerous snakes or crocodiles, said Kota Tinggi district officer Farizal Ismail. "I urge the public in Kota Tinggi not to engage in any fishing activities 'on land' as there are possibilities of dangerous animals lurking in the murky waters.

"Providing aid to them may also be a challenge if anything happens in isolated areas," he said after visiting the SK Mawai temporary relief centre here yesterday.

On Tuesday, Johor Department of Wildlife and National Parks director Salman Saaban said that there were possibilities of stray crocodiles from nearby rivers entering sewage and drainage system.

He added that there were crocodile populations living in nine rivers in the state namely Sungai Batu Pahat (Batu Pahat), Sungai Jemaluang and Sungai Endau (Mersing), Sungai Lebam and Sungai Sedili (Kota Tinggi), Sungai Muar (Muar), Sungai Pulai (Pulai) and Sungai Johor and Sungai Skudai (Johor Bharu).

Salman also said that the public should notify the rescue agency immediately if they encountered such animals in their homes or area.