

SWEPT AWAY

KELANTAN PENSIONER KILLED IN FLOODS

Body found an hour later 200m from his house

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THE second wave of floods that hit Kelantan on Tuesday proved fatal when it claimed the life of a 57-year-old pensioner.

Suhaimi Ismail, from Kampung Renak near Bukit Bunga, Jeli, was believed to have been swept away when his house was inundated with water from a nearby river at 9am.

Jeli Fire and Rescue Department chief Mohd Adni Ibrahim said Suhaimi's body was found about an hour later, 200m from where he was last seen.

"The victim tried to save himself when floodwaters rose to +1.5m in his house.

"However, he was unable to battle the strong current. Villagers discovered his body an hour later."

Adni said the body was sent to the Bukit Bunga health clinic before being transferred to Jeli Hospital.

The first wave of floods in Kelantan had earlier claimed three lives.

This second wave of floods led to a higher number of flood victims, with 3,212 people from 1,014 families seeking refuge in temporary shelters as of 6pm on Tuesday.

This marked a sharp increase from the 2,867 victims recorded three hours earlier.

The victims were placed at 38 flood relief centres in five districts, namely Tanah Merah, Pasir Puteh, Kuala Krai, Machang and Jeli.

Figures from the Welfare De-



Residents of the Immigration Department staff quarters standing outside the flooded building in Tanah Merah, Kelantan, yesterday.

partment showed that Jeli had the highest number of flood victims, with 1,712 people from 593 families placed in 11 centres.

This was followed by Tanah Merah, which had 1,006 victims from 268 families in 19 centres, while Kuala Krai had 231 victims from 66 families in four centres.

The water level of Sungai Golok in Jenob, Tanah Merah, was reported to have breached the danger level, while warnings were issued at three locations in Rantau Panjang, Kuala Krai and Tanah Merah.

Sungai Golok in Jenob recorded a water level of 24.84m. The danger level is at 23.50m.

On Tuesday, Kelantan Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Mohd Amar Nik Abdullah advised people to

heed the authorities' instructions to ensure their safety.

He urged the people not to delay when asked to evacuate.

"If people leave it to the last minute, they could face bigger problems such as lack of transport and severe flood conditions," he said.

In **Kuala Terengganu**, incessant rain led to five rivers in the state — two in Setiu and one each in Besut, Dungun and Hulu Terengganu — breaching the danger level on Tuesday.

Six other rivers were issued warning levels. They were Sungai Besut in Kampung La, Besut; Sungai Chalok at the Chalok bridge, Setiu; Sungai Nerus in Kampung Bukit, Setiu; Sungai Telamong in Kuala Ping; Sungai

Dungun in Kampung Pasir Raja, Dungun; and Sungai Kemaman.

In **Pahang**, the flood situation showed a slight improvement. Three districts, however, were still inundated.

A total of 1,071 victims from 276 families remained at nine temporary relief centres in three districts — Rompin, Temerloh and Bera.

Pahang Civil Defence Force director Colonel Zainal Yusoff said Rompin remained the worst hit, with 980 people taking shelter in seven centres, followed by Bera (25 people in one centre) and Temerloh (66 people in one centre).

"There has been minimum improvement in the three districts as it is still raining.

"On Tuesday, three relief centres in Raub were closed after 61 victims returned home when floodwaters in their village receded.

"Fifteen villages in Rompin are affected by the floods, three in Bera and one in Temerloh," he said in a statement yesterday.

Zainal said the Lubuk Batu bridge in Rompin and Jalan Sungai Yap-Pasir Tambang in Jerantut were closed to vehicles while Jalan Maran-Jerantut Benta (near the Maran temple), Jalan Maran-Jerantut Benta in Maran, Jalan Ulu Retang-Merting in Jerantut and Jalan Kemayan in Bera were open to light vehicles.

He said three rivers in Kuantan, Pekan and Bera had hit the warning level.

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