

## KERATAN AKHBAR



AKHBAR	NEW STRAITS TIMES		
TARIKH	21/12/2019	MUKA SURAT	8
JABATAN	JPS		
KLASIFIKASI	PERHATIAN		

FLOODWATERS RECEDED

# PAHANG AND KELANTAN GET REPRIVEE FROM FLOODS

Authorities monitor levels at several rivers in 2 states, some roads still closed in Johor

TASNIM LOKMAN  
KUAN TAN  
tasnim@nst.com.my

**T**WO flood relief centres were closed as of noon yesterday as weather conditions improved throughout Pahang.

This reduced the number of flood victims seeking shelter to 316 people from 88 families compared with 351 people from 96 families in the morning.

Civil Defence Force director Colonel Zahal Yusoff said evacuees from Bera and Rompin were allowed to return home after floods receded in their villages.

He said the shelter at the Rakan Muda Complex in Bera was closed at 11am, while the one at Kampung Rekoh community hall in Rompin was closed at noon.

However, two centres in Temerloh were still operating. SK Batu

Kapur is sheltering 283 evacuees from 79 families, while SK Bukit Cernin has 33 evacuees from nine families.

Zahal added that the floods in Rompin were caused by a downpour, when a river overflowed into nearby villages.

He said the drainage and irrigation system was unable to cope with the huge amount of water.

The authorities were on alert at two rivers in Pahang, while another two had reached precautionary level.

At 8am yesterday, the waters of Sungai Pahang in Paloh Inai, Pekan, had risen to 10.02m from 9.99m at midnight. The river level remained in the orange zone, slightly below the danger limit of 10.3m.

Yesterday, the level at Sungai Pahang in Lubuk Paku, Maran, dropped to 18.06m from 18.13m on Thursday night. It remained in the alert zone. The river's danger limit is 19m.

The water level of Sungai Pahang in Kampung Chenor, Maran, dropped to 21.13m from 21.26m in the precautionary zone. Its danger limit is 23.5m.

However, Sungai Lipis in Batu Malin was slowly rising as it entered the yellow zone yesterday



A girl wading through floodwaters in Rantau Panjang yesterday. The town was flooded after Sungai Golok overflowed its banks. PIC BY FAHIL ASRI

morning at 114.13m, from 113.54m on Thursday night. Its danger limit is at 114.8m.

Jalan Serengkan in Maran and Jalan Batu Kapor-Sungai Buluh in Temerloh remained closed due to the floods.

Motorist planning to use Jalan Serengkan were advised to use Jalan Lubuk Paku, while an alternate route for Jalan Batu Kapor-Sungai Buluh is Jalan Kampung.

As for weather conditions, thunderstorms were expected for Temerloh, Maran, Jerantut, Raub, Lipis, Cameron Highlands and Bentong.

In **Kota Baru**, the flood situation in Kelantan continued to improve and the number of evacuees dropped to 2,576 people yesterday morning compared with 3,409 on Thursday.

The victims from 900 families were sheltering at 18 relief centres throughout the state.



The second wave of floods, which began on Wednesday, also saw the number of affected districts dropping to three yesterday compared with six the day before.

The three districts inundated were Pasir Mas with 1,909 evacuees, Tanah Merah (415) and Jeli (252). The figures were obtained from the Welfare Department's flood disaster portal.

Reduced rainfall since Thursday also saw water levels at the state's rivers to fall.

However, Sungai Golok was still above its danger level. The water level at the river stood at 10.44m yesterday morning, which was 1.44m above its danger mark.

The water level of Sungai Kelantan in Kusial stood at 12.55m, which was 0.55m above its danger level of 12m.

In **Johor Baru**, 1,229 victims

were still staying in 23 relief centres in five districts yesterday, compared with 1,468 on Thursday.

A state Disaster Committee Secretariat spokesman said there were only 303 families remaining at relief centres yesterday compared with 375 last night.

"In Segamat, there are 580 victims at 13 centres, whereas in Kuala, there are 217 victims at three centres. There are also 267 victims in three relief centres in Kota Tinggi, 71 at one centre in Pontian and 94 in three centres in Batu Pahat, said the spokesman.

He said that two roads in Mersing and another three in Segamat were cut off by floods.

"Only one lane has been opened in Jalan Telok Arong, Mersing, for light vehicles to pass. Jalan Tanah Abang, also in Mersing, Jalan Paya Balai Badang, Jalan Puting and Jalan Tunang in Segamat are closed to all vehicles."