



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Team set up to curb looting

Move to put evacuees at ease, says Kelantan police chief

KOTA BARU: In a move to allay flood evacuees' concerns that their houses may be looted, the state police have set up a special crime unit to monitor their homes.

"The idea is for this team to go area to area, ensuring that the empty homes are not targeted by opportunistic thieves while the owners are stuck in relief centres," said Kelantan police chief Datuk Dr Ab Rahman Ismail.

"It is a special team set up only during floods," he said.

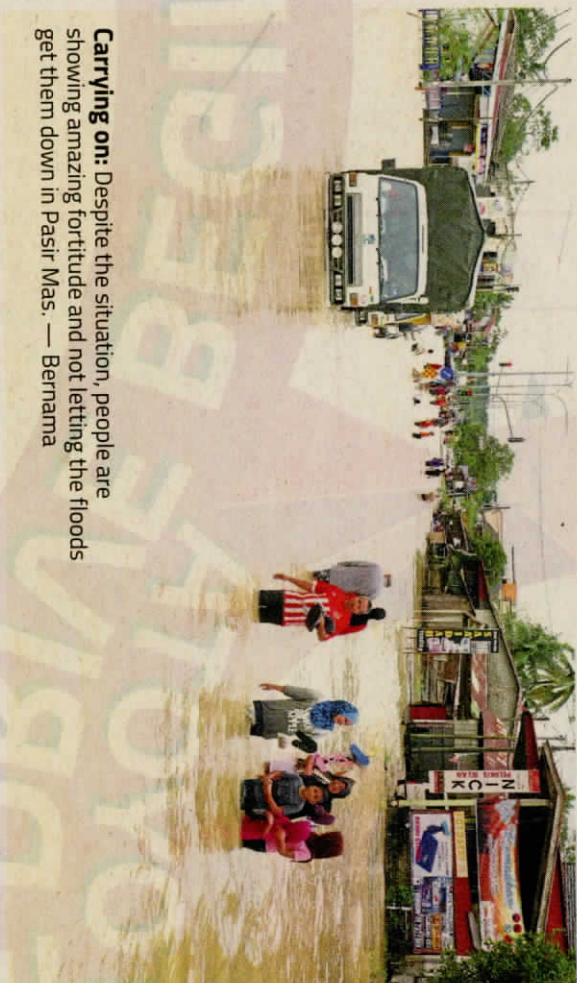
Dr Ab Rahman is in charge of the operations sector of the flood management efforts in the state.

As of yesterday evening, 11,112 people from around the state were evacuated. In Pasir Mas alone – the worst hit district – there were 7,360 victims from 2,654 families. Of Kelantan's 10 districts, Gua Musang and Jeli are the only two to be free of floods, unlike in the past years.

Dr Ab Rahman said one person died during the current floods.

"An eight-year-old girl slipped and drowned while she was being led by her mother."

"Also on Tuesday, a 14-year-old boy fell into Sungai Kelantan while playing with his friends at Kampung Laut," said Dr Ab Rahman.



Carrying on: Despite the situation, people are showing amazing fortitude and not letting the floods get them down in Pasir Mas. — Bernama

man, adding that he has yet to be found.

He said the marine police and authorities were scouting for the boy.

"Ten boats from villagers were also out with us to look for the victim," he said.

Apart from police, the marine police, Civil Defence Force and the Fire and Rescue Department are also involved in the flood management, led by the National Disaster Management Agency.

Website on flood info goes offline for hours

PETALING JAYA: The flood information website <http://infobanjir.water.gov.my> was temporarily inaccessible for a few hours as the public sought the latest updates and warnings.

The website, administered by the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID), would alert the public whenever rivers are at danger levels or when there are heavy rains. It came online again after 11am yesterday.

The website registered 129,180 hits this year with 34,708 alone yesterday.

DID director-general Datuk Seri Zulkefli Hassan said the website could have been affected by the increased number of visitors.

"The same thing happened during last year's rainy season," he said.

Zulkefli said the water levels receded for most of the flooded areas and the situation was "not as bad as the major floods that hit the country in 2014".

Five rivers in Terengganu and three in Kelantan exceeded the danger level as of 4pm.

Malaysian Meteorological Department director-general Datuk Che Gayah Ismail said isolated morning rains were expected over the coastal areas in the east coast in the next five days.