Unit Komunikasi Korporat

KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NEW STRAITS TIMES			
TARIKH	:	16/12/2019	MUKA SURAT	:	2
JABATAN	:	JPS / BANJIR			
KLASIFIKASI	:	**PERHATIAN**			

ON HIGH ALERT

HEAVY RAIN POUNDS JOHOR AND PAHANG

Monsoon rains will continue, floods expected to worsen

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NON-STOP rain in Johor and Pahang has led to more floods, forcing more residents to seek shelter at flood relief centres.

The flood is expected to worsen in the coming days, with the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) saying heavy rainfall brought on by the northeast monsoon would continue.

MetMalaysia yesterday issued an orange alert, or severe weather warning, for Rompin, Pahang, and several areas in Johor (Segamat, Kluang, Mersing, Kulai and Kota Tinggi), where heavy rain was expected until tomorrow.

A yellow alert was issued for Maran, Kuantan, Bera and Pekan in Pahang; Kuala Pilah, Rembau, Jempol and Tampin in Negri Sembilan; Tangkak, Muar, Batu Pahat, Pontian and Johor Baru in Johor; and, Melaka.

A yellow alert means heavy rain is expected in the next one to three days, and if there is continuous rain, it will not last more than six hours and rainfall will be less than 60mm.

An orange alert means continuous heavy rain for more than six hours and rainfall of at least 60mm, while a red alert means continuous heavy rain exceeding 240mm a day.

Johor and Pahang had almost 5,000 evacuees housed at 63 flood relief centres yesterday.

In Johor, the number of flood victims increased from 3,835 people from 1,054 families yesterday morning to 3,934 people from 1,079 families in the afternoon.

Johor Local Government, Urban Wellbeing and Environment Committee chairman Tan Chen Choon said Mersing had the highest number of victims, at 1,265 people from 354 families, followed by Kluang with 1,129 people from 329 families.

The victims were housed at 54 flood relief centres in seven districts — Kluang (21 centres), Kota Tinggi (13), Mersing (10), Segamat (six), Batu Pahat (two), Kulai (one) and Muar (one), Bernama quoted Tan as saying.

Heavy rain has been hitting Johor since Dec 9 and it worsened on Saturday, causing water levels in several rivers to drastically rise.

The Johor Drainage and Irrigation Department said the water level of rivers in Segamat and Skudai breached the danger point.

Sungai Lenik at Ladang Chaah, Segamat, exceeded the warning point when it reached 6.98m in the morning. The normal level is 6m.

Sungai Skudai, with a normal level of 17.4m, reached 17.49m. The water levels of seven other rivers also rose.

In Pahang, the number of flood victims in Rompin rose to 756 people from 195 families as at noon, compared with 681 victims from 176 families in the morning.

The latest tally was significantly higher than the 345 people recorded on Saturday night.

Victims were housed at nine flood relief centres in Rompin, according to the Social Welfare Department's Disaster Info Portal.

Floods struck low-lying areas in Rompin on Saturday following heavy rain since Friday.

Meanwhile, Melaka was bracing for floods and was all set to accommodate 26,000 flood victims at 92 flood relief centres in Alor Gajah, Central Melaka and Jasin districts.

MetMalaysia said the northeast monsoon began on Oct 24 and was expected to go on until March.

In the early phase of the monsoon, which would last until early January, heavy rain was expected in Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Johor.

Strong northeasterly winds of 50 to 60kph, with waves up to 4.5m, were expected in waters off Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and eastern Johor until today.

This combination of strong winds and rough seas is dangerous for shipping and coastal activities, including fishing and ferry services.



People from Kampung Pianggu using a tub to cross floodwaters in Rompin yesterday.
BERNAMA PIC

Assets to be moved to Terengganu

KUALA NERUS: The Fire and Rescue Department will move assets from the west coast of the peninsula to Terengganu in preparation for a possible fourth wave of floods in the state.

Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah Raja Ahmad Baharuddin Shah said the move was aimed at improving the logistics and response time for rescue operations and evacuation of flood victims.

He said the assets in Terengganu, especially five-tonne lorries, were not enough to cover all the flood-risk areas.

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Ministry to ensure new school term not affected

KLUANG: The Education Ministry is making preparations to ensure the new school term will be unaffected by floods.

Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik said the ministry had standard operating procedures (SOP) in place to face such situations if floods continue until next month.

"District education offices have their SOP to deal with floods and are prepared each year.

"If (the floods continue), we will follow the SOP," he said at a back-to-school programme at SMK Simpang Renggam here yesterday.

Maszlee was commenting on the ministry's preparedness to tackle the flood season in Johor and other states, which was expected to last until next month.

Almost all districts in Johor had been affected by floods in the last two days, forcing more than 4,000 people to evacuate to 1,217 temporary flood relief centres.

Floods have also affected Pahang.

The back-to-school programme organised by the state National Higher Education Fund (PTPTN) distributed school supplies worth RM97,000 to 600 students from Simpang Renggam,

PTPTN allocated RM634,400 for the programme nationwide. **Bernama**

"The fourth wave of floods, expected to occur on Dec 24 to 25, is likely to be worse than the third wave due to the combination of high tide and heavy rainfall.

"Our problem (in the state), especially in rural areas, is that people wait until the last minute to evacuate, so we need several trucks to move people from several villages simultaneously," he said after the Terengganu Malay Entrepreneurs' Appreciation Night here on Saturday night.

The government, he said, was studying the need to buy assets like large trucks and helicopters due to the growing population and for search-and-rescue operations, evacuations of flood victims and forest fires.

"The Fire and Rescue Department has only eight helicopters for missions throughout Malaysia, including Sabah and Sarawak.

"In a special meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail last week, we discussed the need to buy more assets." **Bernama**

Newlyweds skip honeymoon to help evacuate flood victims

KLUANG: Newlyweds from the Civil Defence Force (APM) are sacrificing their honeymoon to serve flood victims.

Mohd Nor Azwan Aziz, 27, and Nur Diyana Khairul Anuar, 24, held their wedding four days ago in Taman Permata here.

They then received an assignment to evacuate flood victims to the flood relief centre at SK Sri Lukut in Kahang here.

"No one is forcing us to work. We are supposed to be on holiday, but due to a sense of responsibility to the community, we decided to join other APM members to help flood victims.



A car is inundated in Kampung Contoh, Kahang, Kluang, yesterday. PIC BY MOHD AZREN JAMALUDIN

"We are volunteering because it is our responsibility to the community," Nor Azwan said at the flood relief centre on Saturday.

He said he and his wife had been working shifts for eight hours with their colleagues at the flood relief centre since it opened at 10am on Saturday.

The flood relief centre houses 37 people from 11 families. Some of the victims' homes were flooded to knee level following continuous rain of almost 12 hours.

"In my eight years serving with APM, I've experienced a lot of things, but working with my wife has been the most precious experience for both of us.

"This is our responsibility as members of a rescue team whose duty is to help those in need." **Bernama**