



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHBAR	:	THE STAR		
TARIKH	:	16/12/2019	MUKA SURAT	: 1
JABATAN	:	JPS / BANJIR		
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN		



WEATHER ALERTS OUT

The Malaysian Meteorological Department has issued an orange and yellow weather alert for Johor, Melaka and parts of Pahang and Negri Sembilan. After thousands of residents were displaced by floods in Kelantan and Terengganu early this month, heavy rain has moved south and the number of evacuees in flood-hit areas continues to rise.
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Reports by MOHD FARHAAN SHAH, REMAR NORDIN, STEPHEN THEN, R.S.N. MURALI and DENISE KHOO

Lucky escape for bus driver and passengers

KOTA TINGGI: A group of passengers and the express bus driver had just got off the vehicle when it was quickly submerged in floodwaters here.

Kota Tinggi OCPD Supt Ashmon Bajah confirmed that the bus was caught in strong current due to rising floodwaters along Jalan Kota Tinggi-Mersing at Batu 17.

He said the police had received a

call from the driver, who informed them that the road was inundated after he and his passengers had alighted from the bus.

"When we arrived, the passengers had all been taken to safety by Civil Defence Force (APM) personnel. We were met only by the driver," he said yesterday.

It was unclear how many passengers were affected.

"Two roads in the district have been reopened for all vehicles as of 3pm," he added.

The roads were Jalan Johor Baru-Mersing at KM46 and KM47-KM48.

He said there were several roads that were still inaccessible by all vehicles including Jalan Tanjung Sedili-Kota Tinggi, Jalan Kota Tinggi-Mersing (KM42-KM58) and Jalan Lok Heng-Mawai-Sungai Mas.

Apart from APM, Supt Ashmon said other agencies involved in relocating the victims included the police, Kota Tinggi District Office, Kota Tinggi Municipal Council, Pengerang Local Council, Fire and Rescue Department and Rela.

He urged those who would like to know the current flood situation in Kota Tinggi to contact 07-8837 2222 or 07-883 5451.

Newly-weds put off honeymoon to help victims

KLUANG: A newly married couple from the Malaysian Civil Defence Force (APM) decided to postpone their honeymoon to help in flood rescue efforts.

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

However, they received an assignment to help evacuate flood victims to the relief centre at SK Sri Lukut, Kahang, here.

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

"We are willing to volunteer because it is a responsibility to the community," Mohd Nor Azwan said.

He explained that he and his wife had been on shift duty for eight hours with their colleagues at the PPS since it was opened at 10am on Saturday.

It is housing 37 people from 11 families whose homes have been flooded up to knee level following continuous rain for almost 12 hours.

"In my eight years serving as an APM member, I have had many experiences, but working with my wife has been the most precious experience for both of us.

"However, we would like to emphasise that this is our responsibility as a member of a rescue team whose duty is to help and rescue those in need," he said. — Bernama

More and more evacuees

Number rises as floods now move southwards to Johor and Pahang

KUALA LUMPUR: After thousands of residents were displaced by floods in Kelantan and Terengganu early this month, the floods have moved southwards, with Johor and Pahang now affected.

The situation in Johor and Pahang has worsened with the number of evacuees in flood-hit areas in both states continuing to rise.

In Melaka, 13 people were evacuated to a relief centre after their houses at Kampung Bukit Balai in Durian Tunggal were flooded following two days of rainfall.

In Johor, the flood situation has worsened with the number of flood victims seeking shelter at temporary relief centres at more than 5,000 people.

As at 5pm, 5,592 people from 1,549 families had been evacuated compared to 4,326 people from 1,217 families as at 3pm yesterday.

State Local Government, Urban Wellbeing and Environment Committee chairman Tan Chen Choon said the authorities had so far opened 63 relief centres in nine affected districts.

"Kluang has the highest with 1,296 victims followed by Mersing (1,282) and Kota Tinggi (1,257).

"The other flooded districts are Segamat with 945 victims, Johor Baru (550), Pontian (109), Kulai (90), Batu Pahat (38) and Muar (25)," he said in a statement yesterday.

Tan said one centre in Kluang, the Balai Raya Kampung Melayu Batu 4 near Paloh, had closed as all victims were allowed to go home.

He said the flood also closed three roads in Kota Tinggi and flooded five others with only large vehicles able to pass by.

The closed roads are Jalan Kampung Mawai Lama, Jalan Ladang Logok-Jalan Ladang Bukit Kelompok.

The flooded roads are Jalan Batu 17 and 18, Jalan Perani Lok Heng KM10, Jalan Selekoh Batu 19, Jalan Mawai-Sedili and Jalan Mawai-Bukit Samsu.

"A road closure was also reported in Mersing due to a landslide in Jalan Teluk Arong where only light vehicles can pass the area," he said.

In Pahang, the number of flood victims in Rompin rose to 756 people from 195 families as at noon



Making do: Residents of Kampung Pianggu in Rompin using a water tank to get across the village after their area was flooded. — Bernama

yesterday, compared to 681 victims from 176 families in the morning.

The Social Welfare Department Disaster Info Portal reported that as of noon, nine relief centres were operating in Rompin.

PPS SK Kampung Pianggu recorded 263 victims from 76 families, followed by PPS Kampung Setajam (172 people, 48 families), SK Sarang Tiong (117 people, 25 families) and Rompin Weightlifting hall (42 victims, 10 families), it said.

It also said PPS Kampung Sepayang community hall was home to 42 victims from 10 families, Teluk Gading Hall in Tanjung Gemok (30 victims, eight families), Surau Kampung Perpat (23 victims, four families), Bukit Lepas community hall (33 victims, eight families) and PPS Kampung Janglau community hall (34 victims, six families).

Meanwhile, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah said in Kuala Nerus that the Fire and

Rescue Department (JBPM) would be transferring some of its assets from the west coast states of the peninsula to Terengganu as it geared up for a possible fourth wave of floods to hit the state.

He said the move was aimed at improving the logistics and response time for rescue operations and evacuation of flood victims.

This was also due to an inadequate number of assets especially five-tonne lorries in the state as Terengganu has several flood-risk locations to cover.

"The fourth wave, which is expected to occur between Dec 24 and 25, is likely to be bigger 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 prefer to wait until the last minute to evacuate, so we need to prepare several trucks to move them from several villages simultaneously," he said.

The government, he said, was also studying the need to purchase important assets such as large trucks and helicopters for various uses due to the growing population and for the purpose of search and rescue, evacuation of flood victims, forest fires and so on.

"For example, JBPM currently has only eight helicopters for its mission throughout Malaysia including Sabah and Sarawak.

"Hence, in a special meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail last week, we discussed the need to purchase additional assets," he said, adding that it could also be used by other agencies such as the police and maritime authorities for appropriate purposes.

Watch the video
thestartv.com



Folk in interior Sarawak run out of cooking gas

MIRI: Many flood victims are unable to cook as the supply of cooking gas has run out, paralysing the settlements in interior Sarawak.

The alternative source of fuel — firewood — was also damaged by floodwaters.

Several of the victims sent out an SOS, highlighting their predicament

as they were cut off from the outside world due to the remoteness.

A resident in Kampung Kuala Tutoh said their 72-door longhouse was inundated by 0.7m of floodwaters.

The village is in the upper reaches of Marudi, a six-hour journey by boat from Miri.

There are about 500 people from the minority Lakiput ethnic group living there.

Kampung Kuala Tutoh Lakiput Association senior member Michael Ding said all the households ran out of cooking gas.

"We cannot go to town as floodwaters have cut off all road links for

more than a week. Travelling by boat is also dangerous as the rivers have swelled," he said yesterday.

Ding said the welfare authorities had sent them packages of dry food such as biscuits and canned food.

He said floodwaters also seeped into the first floor of the two-storey building.

Four states on orange and yellow weather alert

PETALING JAYA: Johor, Melaka and parts of Pahang and Negri Sembilan are on orange and yellow weather alert amid heavy rains.

Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) issued an orange weather alert for Segamat, Kluang, Mersing, Kulai and Kota Tinggi in Johor yesterday.

The orange weather alert also covered Rompin in Pahang.

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

The alert lasts until tomorrow.

According to a MetMalaysia statement, strong winds between 40kph and 50kph with waves up to 3.5m are expected to hit the coastal areas of Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and east Johor during the duration of the alert.

MetMalaysia issues three types of weather alert.

A yellow or alert level weather warning is issued when continued heavy rain is expected to last between one and three days.

An orange alert indicates severe weather warning for an area that is expected to be hit by continued heavy rain.

A red alert or danger level alert is a warning issued when rainfall is forecast to exceed 240mm per day.