



WET SEASON

OCTOBER A MONTH OF FLASH FLOODS

Thunderstorms in monsoon transition period, says MetMalaysia

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BRACE yourselves for heavy rain and flash floods next month as Malaysia bids farewell to the much despised haze.

Malaysian Meteorological Department director-general Jallan Simon said during this period, thunderstorms were expected to swamp the west coast and interiors of the peninsula.

"During the monsoon transition period, we tend to experience humid weather, with rain and thunderstorms usually occurring in the late afternoon and early evening.

"This weather will be focused on the west coast and rural areas (of the peninsula), the west coast of Sabah and the west coast and central Sarawak," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Asked if Malaysians could expect heavy floods once the monsoon hits in November, Jallan said it was too early to predict.

He said the northeast monsoon was expected to begin in early November and end in March.

During this monsoon season, he said, several episodes of heavy monsoon rain were expected to occur in the eastern coastal states of the peninsula. But he gave his assurance that it would be a "normal" monsoon season.

"When we use the word 'normal', it means there will be rain and floods, but not that extreme, compared with the 2014 disaster.

"The department also looks at the current situation. If any systems or phenomena such as El Nino or La Nina were to happen, then it could change the whole situation.

"For example, if by chance strong winds from China were to arrive here, leading to cold nights, there might be more moisture than expected," he said, adding that this usually affected how heavy the rain would be.

Jallan said floods were expected to begin in Kelantan and Terengganu in the middle of the month and would hit Pahang by the end of November.

He said flooding in Johor would begin in December up to early January, while flooding in Sabah and Sarawak would start in January.

He said heavy rain and flooding in coastal areas were not so much of a concern compared with the interior.

"If it hits rural areas first, such as Gua Musang (Kelantan), Jerantut and Kuala Lipis (Pahang), it will slowly make its way to towns.

"That is why we need to monitor which areas the rain hits first because it will later determine the flooding situation."

The authorities want to prevent