

MONSOON

# MORE FLOOD EVACUEES IN PERAK, JOHOR

Hundreds seek shelter as rural, suburban areas inundated

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**T**HE number of evacuees in the state continues to rise, with 308 victims seeking shelter at relief centres up to 4pm yesterday compared to 294 earlier.

A Perak Disaster Management Committee secretariat spokesman said the 308 victims from Hilir Perak and Kerian districts were seeking shelter at two relief centres.

"SK Changkat Jong in Teluk Intan, which opened as a relief centre since Friday, has 233 victims from 62 families in Hilir Perak district up to 4pm.

"Another 75 victims from 17 families in Kerian district are at SK Changkat Lobak," he said yesterday.

A Kerian District Disaster Management Secretariat spokesman

said 75 people from Kampung Matang Tengah were forced to evacuate at 6pm when their houses were inundated.

In Johor Baru, the number of flood victims continued to rise here and in Pontian district.

Local Government, Urban Wellbeing and Environment Committee chairman Tan Chen Choon said 596 people from 132 families had been relocated up to 4pm yesterday compared with 510 at 8am.

In Pontian, 363 victims were from 84 families. They were from Kampung Parit Basilam, Kampung Maju Jaya, Kampung Melayu Batu 30 Bukit Panjang, Kampung Ulu Pulai and Kampung Seri Bunian.

They were relocated to five relief centres; PPS Madrasah Parit Basilam, SK Parit Haji Adnan, SK Seri Bukit Panjang, Masjid Kampung Ulu Pulai and SK Seri Bunian.

A total of 233 people from 48 families from Kampung Pulai in Gelang Patah had been relocated to SK Kampung Pulai.

He said other affected areas were Kampung Sari Baru and Kampung Seri Gelam in Muar; and Kampung Jasa Wangi in Batu Pahat. However, no residents had been evacuated to relief centres.



In Kuantan, floods were expected to hit the east coast state in December, prompting the Pahang Fire and Rescue Department to prepare for the worst.

Its chief, Nor Hisham Mohammed, said they were expecting 20 per cent more rain than last year.

Up to last month, there was 44 per cent of rainfall compared with the annual average of 2,000mm to 2,500mm.

Nor Hisham said based on information from the Malaysian Meteorological Department, Pahang would experience heavy rain in December, mainly in Rompin, Kuantan and Pekan, as well as the coastal areas.

He added that since Pekan and Kuantan were located at the estuary of Sungai Pahang and Sungai Kuantan, respectively, the department would be on alert in these two areas.

"Based on the weather forecast,

## No pampering for Terengganu evacuees

**KUALA TERENGGANU:** Flood preparations in the state this year are more thorough than before, which surprisingly includes a tsunami early-warning system off the coast of the state capital here, as people in flood-prone areas brace for the arrival of the monsoon.

Rain is forecast to pour from tomorrow, with the first episode of heavy and continuous rainfalls expected from Nov 3.

"All systems are ready, especially logistical requirements, manpower provided by members of the Village Community Management Council (MPKK) and health officers, food and medical supplies, and quick processing of

financial assistance to flood victims," said state Civil Defence Force director Lieutenant Colonel (PA) Che Adam Abd Rahman yesterday.

Flood-prone areas in five districts would be given attention, despite the Meteorological Department's forecast of a "moderate" monsoon similar to the 2016-2017 season, he added.

"Low-lying areas in Kemaman, Hulu Terengganu, Dungun, Besut and Setiu are expected to be flooded during several episodes



Lt-Col Che Adam Abd Rahman

of heavy rain," he said, after briefing MPKK members.

Che Adam said flood victims should use the opportunity to work together to prepare food and not expect VIP treatment.

"We used to pamper victims to the extent of preparing meals for them, so much so that if meals were late, our volunteers were scolded.

"We do not want this to happen this year. We want the flood victims to help each other, including keeping the relief centres clean," he said.