

RELIEF CENTRES OPENED

GEORGE TOWN HIT BY FLASH FLOODS

54 evacuated from homes

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A DOWNPOUR which began at 8pm on Thursday triggered flash floods here, and forced the evacuation of 54 people from 15 families from their homes.

The evacuees, who include a baby, eight senior citizens, one disabled person and 19 children, were moved to the Jawi multipurpose hall here.

"The hall was opened at 3.45am and the families were settled in.

"We are monitoring the water level, and it appears (to be) receding (this morning)," state Environment Committee chairman Phee Boon Poh said yesterday.

Phee said 53.5mm of rainfall was recorded from 8pm to 8.47pm here, and that low-lying areas, including Jalan Sir Ibrahim, Jalan Van Praagh, Jalan Terengganu and Jalan P. Ramlee, were submerged in 0.2m of water.

"Water pumps have been activated," he said, adding that the flooding was caused by heavy rainfall, high tide, a lack of drainage capacity and the low-lying nature of the area.

In Alor Star, floods triggered by heavy rain since Thursday forced



Fire and Rescue Department personnel assisting flood victims in Baling yesterday. PIC BY SAFURI KAMARUDIN

the evacuation of 94 people to temporary evacuation centres (PPS) in Muking Siong and Bangor in Baling yesterday.

The evacuees, from 32 families, were from low-lying river-adjacent villages inundated by floodwaters overnight. The rural settlements include Kampung Baru, Kampung Lalang, Kampung Lahar, Kampung Surau, Kampung

Lubuk Batu and Kampung Tanjung Merbau.

The victims were evacuated to the Kampung Lalang hall, the Kampung Baru surau, the Kampung Banggol Derom multipurpose hall, the Kampung Lahar surau and the Batu 48 community hall, which were opened at 7am.

Baling district Disaster Man-

agement Committee secretariat Lieutenant (PA) Mohd Faizol Ab Aziz said they were monitoring the situation, Bernama reported.

In Jelebu, torrential rain on Thursday triggered flooding in five villages here, and forced the evacuation of 163 people from 47 families from their homes.

The flood victims comprise 21 people from Kampung Telekong;

Kampung Chennah (20); Kampung Juntai (31); Kampung Simpang Durian (54) and Kampung Jerang (37).

They were moved between 11.30pm on Thursday and 4.30am yesterday to the Kampung Poutm Mosque, the Kampung Jerang Mosque and the community halls of Kampung Chennah, Kampung Juntai and Kampung Simpang Durian.

"The water level is still high this morning. Monitoring is ongoing," a Jelebu district Civil Defence Force spokesman said.

In Putrajaya, Bernama reported that 420 victims from 101 families were evacuated to temporary evacuation centres in four flood-affected states up to 8am yesterday.

According to a report by the National Disaster Management Agency in Johor, 214 flood victims from 49 families were evacuated to four relief centres.

The centres include SK Seri Bukit Panjang and SK Parit Haji Adnan in Pontian and SK Sungai Kajang and Dewan Orang Ramai Tongkang Pecah in Batu Pahat.

In Selangor, 91 victims from 24 families were moved to a relief centre at Dewan Majlis Daerah Kuala Selangor (MDKS) Desa Coalfields in Kuala Selangor.

In Perak, 84 victims from 20 families were evacuated to SK Changkat Lobak in Kerlan, while in Penang, 31 victims from eight families were moved to a relief centre at Tadika Kemas Kampung Manggis, Seberang Prai.