



Army personnel helping to clean up a school in Seberang Tayur, Kemaman, yesterday. Pic by Shamsudin Husin

4,300 still in centres

NO LET-UP: It is status quo in Pekan but things are looking up elsewhere

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PEKAN remains the hardest-hit district in Pahang with 4,296 flood victims, while the remaining two relief centres in Bera were closed at 4pm yesterday.

A state flood operations centre spokesman said only three districts — Pekan, Kuantan and Maran — with 5,494 evacuees were still affected by the floods but the flood situation in Kuantan and Maran was fast improving.

He said the remaining 63 victims from Bera returned home at 10am yesterday while there were 736 and 462 victims in Kuantan and Maran, respectively.

Only one stretch, Km30 Jalan Penor-Ubai, remained close to vehicles.

Meanwhile, state Natural Disaster Relief Committee chairman Datuk Seri Muham-

mad Safian Ismail said the state government would improve its flood warning system during the second wave of floods to make it easier for people, especially those living in low-lying areas, to be evacuated.

He said the Drainage and Irrigation Department, which had the equipment to monitor the water level in the main rivers in the state, would be entrusted to channel information to the public through television, radio, social media and websites of all the relevant agencies.

"We will revise the existing standard operating procedure for the second wave of floods by roping in army personnel to handle the flood relief centres and operations, including rescuing the victims, cooking the meals and attending to other needs.

"Suitable relief centres will be identified as recently, some victims were forced to remain in centres that were flooded.

"Extra welfare officers and personnel will be on duty to assist at the centres."

In Bera, volunteers from the Prime Minister's Office and Universiti Putra Malaysia

(UPM), including four international students, teamed up to help flood victims clean their homes in Kampung Mengkarak here.

Led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's private secretary, Datuk Mohd Fuad Jelani, the 20 volunteers also distributed food items and offered assistance to the villagers.

UPM Holdings Sdn Bhd director Professor Dr Husaini Omar, who was present at the programme, said the international undergraduates were included to allow them to experience the go-tong-royong culture which is widely practised in the country.

Meanwhile, Bernama reports in Terengganu, the final 22 flood victims from eight families sheltered at SK Pasir Putih in Marang were allowed to return to their homes on Friday night.

According to the National Security Council portal, Marang was the last district in the state to be free of the floods.

The floods that hit the state from Dec 2 affected the districts of Kemaman, Dungun, Marang, Hulu Terengganu, Kuala Terengganu and Setiu.

