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## FLOODS

# CONSTANT MONITORING IS VITAL

**A**T the time of writing, the flood situation in Terengganu has improved with the number of evacuees reduced to 8,300 people last Thursday compared with 12,910 a day earlier.

But the flood situation in Kelantan has worsened with the number of evacuees increasing to 14,132 people on Friday compared with 10,041 on Thursday.

They are housed at 53 flood relief centres in seven districts.

East of the peninsula is also not spared from floods this year.

In the northern district of Pitas, Sabah, seven primary schools were closed and 10 villages inundated.

However, this year, the flood relief centres are well prepared and equipped to accommodate the evacuees.

The distribution of supplies and other aid was handled efficiently.

After the major floods in 2014, the government established the National Disaster Management Agency to coordinate agencies engaged in disaster relief services.

This helped ease congestion and red tape in the preparation and distribution of aid to victims.

Basic needs, such as potable water and sanitation, must not be neglected at flood relief centres.

As the water levels in rivers increase, so does waterborne waste. So, water operators must monitor water treatment plants to ensure water is not contaminated.

As reported by Air Kelantan Sdn Bhd, the water treatment plant in Merbau Chondong stopped opera-

tions last week.

It is believed to be caused by stagnant water as a result of heavy rain.

Water operators must also not overlook the possibilities of power failure that will cause the water treatment plants to cease operations.

Tenaga Nasional Berhad has announced that it will provide four mobile power generators in Tanah Merah to prepare for power outages during the floods.

All parties must work together to face the disaster and provide assistance to the victims.

Although we cannot replace what they have lost, we can at least provide them with the basic needs.

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