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Things are looking up in several states following days of flooding. With the waters receding, the situation in Johor and Kelantan is almost back to normal while the number of people seeking shelter in Terengganu and Pahang is also decreasing. The Meteorological Department is predicting only light rain in the coming days. Now, victims begin the arduous task of cleaning up the mess.

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Flood situation improves

RELIEF AT LAST: Evacuees in most states allowed to return home as waters recede

THE flood situation in East Coast states, including worst-hit areas of Terengganu, has improved with several major roads re-opened to traffic and victims returning home.

The Meteorological Department, meanwhile, has predicted only light rain in the coming days.

Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) reported that Johor, Malacca and Kelantan's electricity supply was back to normal but in Pahang and Terengganu, several substations were not operating and this has affected supply in some districts.

In Johor, only 449 people were in seven relief centres in Segamat, while in Kelantan, all flood evac-

uation centres closed yesterday morning. The water level at Sungai Golok was below the danger level of 9m but above the alert level of 8m.

In Terengganu, the water levels in all major rivers dipped below the warning level and all roads were open to traffic.

In Pahang, RapidKuantan had resumed its bus service in the town after suspending it last Tuesday.

Sunny skies in Pahang yesterday saw the number of flood evacuees drop to 30,790 in the evening from 33,952 at eight remaining districts.

Six relief centres in Raub were closed at 4pm after 137 evacuees returned home in the morning.

Kuantan had the highest number of victims at 24,998 followed by Pekan (3,182), Temerloh (1,049), Maran (839), Jerantut (456), Bera (170), Lipis (60) and Rompin (36).

In **Kuala Terengganu**, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Said said the rainfall recorded at the Drainage and Irrigation

Department monitoring station in Jabor during the first three days of floods was equivalent to half the annual rainfall for the state.

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“The station recorded 777mm of rain on Dec 3. The total rainfall for three days was 1,662mm, compared with the 442mm rainfall in three days during the floods last year.”

Ahmad said another contributing factor was the high tide at sea which prevented the swollen rivers to flow out to sea. He said flood mitigation measures were needed to counter the effects of the lack of catchment areas.

The state government had allocated RM12.4 million for the planned drainage and irrigation

developments in Hulu Terengganu, Kuala Terengganu, Marang and Kemaman.

Most families affected by floods in the state were allowed to return yesterday, with only 15, 876 victims still seeking shelter at 45 relief centres in Kemaman, Dungun, Marang and Kuala Terengganu as at 3pm yesterday.

Kemaman remained on top of the list with 13,335 victims in 37 shelters, followed by Dungun (2,512 victims in six shelters), Marang (23 victims in one shelter) and Kuala

Terengganu (6 victims in 1 shelter).

In Kemaman, authorities shifted their focus on helping victims with the clean up of their houses, as well as at affected public buildings.

The army had finished setting up the frame of a stopgap bridge across Sungai Limbung here at 9am yesterday.

Page 1 pic: *Armed Forces personnel setting up the frame of a stopgap bridge across Sungai Limbung, Kemaman on Sunday. Pic by Yusmaizi Karim*