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Orange-alert warning for Pahang, Terengganu lifted

LEVEL YELLOW: But rains will not stop and floods can still occur

KUALA LUMPUR

THE orange-alert warning issued by the Meteorological Department in several parts of Pahang and Terengganu was lifted yesterday as the situation in flood-hit areas improved.

Its central forecast division director Muhammad Helmi Abdullah said the warning was changed to yellow at 9am.

"Heavy rains subsided in Terengganu, Kelantan and Pahang but it will take some time, at least another two or three days, for the water levels to go down."

Helmi said despite the change, people should still take the necessary precautions.

"These warnings are only based on rainfall patterns and not on the level of flooding," he said, adding residents could expect intermittent rain for the next few days.

"There will be no more episodes of heavy rain. Only moderate rain will persist this week, which may still cause floods in low-lying areas."

On Tuesday, the department issued a Level 2 orange warning for five areas in Pahang and Terengganu.

National Security Council secretary Datuk Mohamed Thajudeen Abdul Wahab assured

there was adequate supply of food for evacuees.

"The situation is under control and the supply of food and essential items at relief centres will last for at least three to five days," he said, acknowledging that there had been an initial delay in the supply of food to several relief centres.

Thajudeen attributed this to a sudden and unforeseen rise in the number of evacuees as well as the disruption of transport facilities because of floodwaters cutting off roads.

"Two teams were deployed in Kemaman and Pahang, and another 10 are on standby if the need arises."

He said the council was cooperating with the police, Fire and Rescue Department, district office and other agencies to ensure flood relief operations were carried effectively,

"All the necessary equipment for rescue operations, such as four-wheel-drive vehicles, ambulances, helicopters and boats, are ready to move out any time."

The number of evacuees in the east coast decreased yesterday as

flood waters abated. As of 8pm, there were 35,502 displaced people in Pahang, 22,617 in Terengganu and 226 in Kelantan.

Mercy Malaysia corporate communications manager Eyasmin Hameed said the organisation had set up a mobile clinic and distributed 1,000 hygiene kits to flood victims in Kuantan.

She said the mobile clinic was set up at Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi Mara on Thursday while the hygiene kits were distributed in collaboration with St John Ambulance Malaysia.

"We gave one hygiene kit for each family. Each kit accommodates the needs of five individuals and contains toiletries, combs, five slippers, nail-clippers and underwear for adults and children."

Eyasmin said Mercy Malaysia was also educating evacuees on the importance of cleanliness to avoid water-borne diseases from spreading.

Tenaga Nasional Bhd said yesterday it had restored power supply to all flood-affected areas as of 11am yesterday.

The situation in Johor improved yesterday because of good weather. Only 635 people were left at nine centres last night compared with 1,024 earlier in the afternoon.