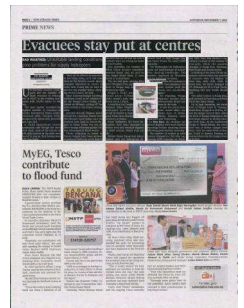


Headline	Evacuees stay put at centres		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	07 Dec 2013	Language	English
Circulation	95,860	Readership	236,000
Section	Local News	Page No	4
ArticleSize	260 cm ²	Journalist	T.N. ALACESH
PR Value	RM 12,720		



Evacuees stay put at centres

BAD WEATHER: Unsuitable landing conditions pose problems for supply helicopters

**T.N. ALACESH
AND FAZROL NASIR**

UNCERTAIN weather conditions saw the number of flood evacuees in Pahang rise to 39,177 in the evening compared with 34,190 earlier in the day.

The state capital recorded the highest number of evacuees at 34,504, followed by Pekan (3,356), Temerloh (485), Jerantut (478), Rompin (173), Maran (83), Bera (65) and Lipis (33).

A flood operations centre spokesman said though the skies were clear, most of the victims at 109 relief centres in the state were forced to stay as their homes were still inundated.

"Most of the affected homes were in low-lying areas, so it will take time for the flood to recede. Many evacuees requested to return to clean their homes but we have to monitor the weather before allowing them to leave," he said.

Jalan Kuantan-Sungai Lembing remained closed to all vehicles after the Sungai Charu bridge collapsed on Monday, cutting off the main stretch to the former mining town.

Jerantut Natural Disaster Relief Committee chairman Datuk Syed Abd Mutalib Syed Hassan said the Jerantut-Lipis road to Taman Negara in Kuala Tahan was cut off after a bridge at Kampung Paya Teh was submerged by flood waters.

Those planning to travel to Taman Negara have been advised to postpone their trip as the road to the jetty was cut off and the river's currents were too strong for boats

to travel safely.

Also yesterday, the remains of Pekan Umno division committee member Jamali Jani, 45, and his son, Megat Mohd Nazli, 17, were found in a canal here.

The two had gone missing after their fibreglass boat capsized in Sungai Isap on Wednesday night.

Megat's body was found about 9.30am while Jamali's body was fished out at 2.25pm.

A relative at the Tengku Ampuan Afzan Hospital mortuary said both would be buried at Kampung Pulau Jawa Muslim cemetery in Pekan.

Royal Malaysian Air Force helicopters have been deployed to deliver food and medical supplies to relief centres, which were cut off.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said two helicopters delivered food to SMK Sungai Isap and Penor Prison for some 5,000 evacuees.

"On Wednesday, the helicopters could not land because of unsuitable landing conditions. The weather improved on Thursday and we delivered the items.

"The helicopters will continue to send food supplies to the relief centres until the roads are accessible again."

On Thursday, Tenaga Nasional Berhad shut

down another 34 sub-stations in the state.

It said the power shutdown would affect residents here, in Pekan, Maran, Jerantut, Lipis, Muadzam and Temerlong.

In **Kota Baru**, the situation improved slightly, with most districts reporting victims returning home following good weather yesterday.

The number of victims at relief centres dropped to 1,762 after registering 2,078 evacuees on Thursday. Only Pasir Mas showed a significant increase in the number of evacuees, while the number dropped in Kuala Krai, Machang, Pasir Putih and Tanah Merah.

According to the state's flood operation centre website, the number of evacuees were the highest in Pasir Mas, with 1,638, while in Kuala Krai, the figure dropped to 175, followed by 63 in Pasir Putih, Machang (41) and Tanah Merah (20).

Two relief centres in Kuala Krai, and one each in Pasir Mas and Pasir Putih had been closed.

Up to 5pm yesterday, the water level of Sungai Lebir in Tualang, Kuala Krai, dropped to 29.47m, below the danger level of 35m, while the level of Sungai Kelantan at the Krai Steps dipped to 22.03m (danger level 25m). At the Guillemard bridge in Tanah Merah, the water level was at 14.91m (danger level 16m). Only the water level of Sungai Golok in Rantau Panjang remained above the 9m danger level, at 10.27m.