

PM WORRIED ABOUT NEW FLOOD WAVE

Relevant agencies instructed to remain on high alert and take precautionary measures

FAHMY A. ROSLI
AND IYLIA MARSYA ISKANDAR
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed concern over the possibility of a second wave of flooding.

He has instructed the relevant agencies to remain on high alert and take precautionary measures based on forecasts issued by the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia).

"The concern is the possibility of a second wave of floods, according to MetMalaysia. Hopefully, *insyaAllah*, we can control it," he said during the Ihsan Madani fundraising event for flood victims at the Seri Perdana Complex yesterday.

Present were Chief Secretary to

the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar and National Disaster Management Agency director-general Datuk Khairul Shahril Idrus.

Anwar said the total number of flood victims recorded since the beginning of the floods was 235,706, the highest ever.

"As of this morning, the trend (in the number of evacuees) appears to be decreasing. The floods have also receded slightly in Kelantan and Terengganu, but they have risen in Pahang and several areas in Johor."

He was referring to the latest report from the National Disaster Control Centre (NDCC) and the InfoBencana portal of the Welfare Department.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the state and district disaster management committees in Pahang and Johor should take appropriate measures to prepare for the second wave of floods, which is expected to begin on Sunday.

Zahid, who also chairs the National Disaster Management Committee, said such preparations were vital to avoid any unwanted incident.

"The second wave of floods is



One of more than 10 villages that are still flooded up to a depth of two metres due to the overflow of water from Sungai Golok in Tumpat yesterday.
NSTP PIC BY NIK ABDULLAH NIK OMAR

expected to occur from Dec 8 to 14, affecting Johor and Pahang.

"We hope the state and district disaster management committees will prepare for this," he said at the Rural and Regional Development Ministry's monthly assembly and Innovation Day celebration.

Zahid added that preparations for the second wave were more comprehensive compared with

the first, as authorities have conducted a flood simulation exercise.

Zahid, who is also the rural and regional development minister, called on ministry staff to take proactive measures and mobilise efforts to assist flood victims.

These initiatives include providing new homes or repairing damaged ones, launching a flood relief fund, and es-

tablishing Skwad Ihsan Madani to assist with post-flood recovery efforts.

He urged the ministry, along with its departments, agencies and subsidiaries, to collaborate and take concrete actions to support affected communities.

Page 1 pic: Flood-damaged houses and a car in Tumpat, Kelantan, yesterday.