

**Bangkok Will Not Be Flooded, Assures Yingluck
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By Jamaluddin Muhammad**

BANGKOK, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is confident the capital would not be flooded as massive floodwater run-off from northern and central regions begin to reach the city today.

"I am confident Bangkok will not be flooded. I want the people to be confident, too," she said.

The floodwater run-off has been diverted to the Gulf of Thailand through the Chao Phraya River, canals and waterways.

Earlier, the natural resources and environment ministry has projected that 16 billion cubic metres of floodwater run-off would reach the capital.

They comprise eight billion cubic metres from Nakhon Sawan province, six billion cubic metres from Ayutthaya province and two billion cubic metres from Phatum Thani province.

Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Pol Gen Pongsapat Pongchareon said between 400 and 500 million cubic metres of water flowed out to the open sea daily.

"Although the sea level is still high, we are able to divert the waters effectively. A large flow of floodwater run-off is now out to sea," he said.

Furthermore, the capital is protected by the floodwalls to prevent floodwaters from flowing into the city.

Yingluck is confident the capital would not be flooded although the city has been experiencing heavy rains and high sea tide in the past few days, coupled with the floodwater run-off today.

The government has made every effort to protect the capital which is the government administrative centre, business and financial hub, as well as home to more than 12 million people.

The prime minister has urged those living outside the floodwalls not to destroy them (floodwalls).

Tempers flared as some of those living outside the floodwalls allegedly began to destroy the floodwalls as their areas were badly affected, in order to protect the capital.

Some parts of eastern Bangkok which is located outside the floodwalls have been flooded over the past few days.

"Overall, the floods have struck many areas. So, today, we have to take care in some areas, but it does not mean that we ignored people who have been suffering from the floods.

"We need to help each other to protect the overall national economy," said Yingluck who

expressed confidence the government could protect the Suvarnabhumi International Airport from flooding as the floodwalls there had been reinforced.

On the flood threat faced by the Nava Nakhorn Industrial Park in Phatum Thani, she said the government managed to protect the industrial park from the natural disaster, at the moment.

Prior to this, five industrial estates in Ayutthaya -- Saha Rattanakorn, Rojana Industrial Park, Hi-Tech Park, Bang Pa-in and the Factory Land Industrial Estate -- could not be saved from the flood.

About one-third of the country remains inundated, with 2.3 million people from more than 10,000 villages in 24 provinces in the northern and central regions affected by the floods which hit the country in stages since July 25.

The death toll stands at 297.

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