

Yingluck Tells Bangkok Residents To Brace Themselves For One-month Flood
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BANGKOK, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Brace yourselves for a possible month-long flood as the northern and central region floodwater run-off was draining into the Gulf Of Thailand, via the capital.

This was Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's alert to the people of Bangkok Saturday, as she noted the flood was inevitable despite government attempts to divert the floodwater run-off to eastern Bangkok.

The government has periodically opened the sluice gate in the capital since last night to flush 1.2 billion cubic metres of the floodwater run-off into the sea, in a move to solve the critical flood situation in the country.

Part of northern Bangkok in Don Muang, Laksi, Bang Khen and Bang Sue experienced minor floods last night while part of eastern Bangkok has been flooded since last week.

Overall, the floodwater level in the northern and central regions remained stagnant, in some areas for two months, leaving the government with no other choice but to drain the floodwater.

Furthermore, the northern and central regions can no longer hold the massive amount of floodwater, just to keep Bangkok safe from flood.

About one-third of the country remains inundated, with 2.4 million people from more than 10,000 villages in 28 provinces in the northern and central regions affected by the flood.

The flood hit the country in stages from July 25, claiming 356 lives, so far.

Over 14,000 factories which employed more than 660,000 workers have been affected by the flood.

According to the National Economic and Social Development Board, damage to the industrial sector is estimated at more than 100 billion Baht (about RM10 billion) and the agriculture sector at more than 40 billion Baht (about RM4 billion), as a result of the flood crisis.

According to the finance ministry, the flood could impact the country's economic growth for this year, by up to 1.7 per cent, as compared to the pre-crisis forecast of between 3.5 per cent and 4.5 per cent growth.

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