



The border town of Rantau Panjang in Kelantan was flooded yesterday. The main road from Pasir Mas to Rantau Panjang has been cut off and Sungai Golok has risen above the danger level. — Bernama picture

# High tide a few days from now will make things worse

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**KUANTAN:** Towns at river estuaries along the east coast have been put on high alert following forecast of a high tide phenomenon on Dec 21.

The high tide was expected to aggravate the floods, especially in some of the towns which had been inundated with water, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

Preparations were being made for the phenomenon, including possible evacuation and strengthening relief supply lines for food and essential items.

"We are all prepared for the high tide on Dec 21 which may cause more floods in areas near the river estuaries," he said when met at the flood relief centre in Lepar, near here, yesterday.



Najib made a stopover at the centre during a visit to flood-hit areas here and in Bera.

"Although floodwaters in some areas seem to be subsiding, we do not expect it to recede as fast as expected, especially in the worst affected places."

Najib said the biggest threat was from a huge body of water

trapped upstream following heavy rains.

"That is our main worry because once the water starts to flow downstream and coupled with the sea's high-tide effect, it could aggravate the floods."

Najib, nonetheless, expressed confidence that agencies tasked with the relief operation were fully prepared for any eventuality.

"I can see that the relief operations have been carried out smoothly.

"There were problems in areas that have been cut off by floods but we managed to send relief supplies using army vehicles, boats and helicopters."

Najib said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, who was with him yesterday, was co-ordinating relief supply operations and had made

Kuantan the supply hub.

"Armed forces personnel will do their part in distributing the supplies," added Najib, who is also the defence minister.

He lauded the corporate bodies and non-governmental organisations for their contributions to the relief operations.

On complaints by some flood victims that they had not received food supplies, he said the problem arose mainly among those who refused to move to relief centres despite being ordered to do so.

"There are no problems at the relief centres.

"Nonetheless, I have directed that food and other supplies be delivered to these people even if they refuse to move out from their homes."

Najib said the authorities had also included other items for evacuees such as formula milk, sanitary towels and torchlights.

He also advised traders in flood-hit areas not to take advantage of the victims by raising prices of essential items.

"Some of the stuff needed by the flood victims are not on the price-controlled list. We can't do much if the traders hike the prices.

"However, I would like to call on them (traders) to consider the hardship of the victims and not just think about reaping profits."

Najib's advice came following reports of price hikes of items such as candles, which are being sold at RM4 each in several areas in Bera where electricity was cut off.