

East coast improves but  
Penang, Kedah on alert

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Meteorological Department has lifted the red alert status for Pahang and orange alert status for Kelantan and Terengganu, but warned of heavy rains and thunderstorms with strong winds over Penang and southern Kedah.

The department issues a red alert for tropical storms or typhoons with sustained wind speeds of at least 60kph accompanied by moderate to heavy rain.

An orange alert is issued for moderate monsoon rains with sustained wind speeds of 50 to 60kph that are expected to last at least two hours.

Both of these alerts come with a warning of flooding in low-lying areas and along river banks.

To date, the floods have killed 23 people. The latest victims were a 6-year-old girl from Tanah Merah, Kelantan, and an Indonesian estate worker in Mentakab, Pahang.

Norelia Shahmi Wahab drowned after slipping into a river at Kampung Terung near Gual, Ipoh, around 10.30am. Her body was recovered an hour later.

The Indonesian worker, identified only as Hisham, 35, was wading through flood water on his way to buy grocery with some friends when he lost his footing and was swept away by strong currents.

In **Terengganu**, all evacuation centres were closed. With the exception of Sungai Dungun and Sungai Setiu, the water levels of the major rivers have receded to below their respective alert levels.

The police flood operation centre announced that all roads in flood-prone areas in Hulu Terengganu leading to Kelantan were open to traffic.

In **Kelantan**, a police spokesman said the number of evacuees rose to 3,501 people at 4pm yesterday, compared with 3,000 the previous day.

Pasir Mas recorded the highest number (2,260), followed by Tanah Merah (428), Kota Baru (323), Kuala Krai (187), Tumpat (180), Machang (104) and Jeli (19).

The spokesman said all of the main flood assessment points in the state recorded water levels that were above the danger level as at 4pm.

"Water level at all of the assessment points have receded slightly but they are still above the danger point except for Sungai Golok, where it has risen since early yesterday," he said.

In **Pahang**, the number of flood evacuees had gone up to more than 21,000 yesterday after dropping to about 19,000 the previous day.

Heavy rain in several districts on Saturday night and early yesterday morning forced the evacuation of more flood victims.



**TWO roads in Gua Musang at Km55 Gua Musang-Kuala Krai near Paloh 1 and Km65 Gua Musang-Kuala Krai near Sungai Lakit were closed to all traffic following landslides on Saturday. A police spokesman said motorists can use the Dabong road as an alternative route.**

Pekan, which is the worst affected district, now has 7,955 evacuees compared with 6,655 on Saturday.

There were 4,910 evacuees in Temerloh, 2,396 in Rompin, 2,590 in Maran, 2,649 in Bera, 1,087 in Kuantan and 112 in Jerantut.

A spokesman for the state flood relief operation centre said areas where the flood had subsided were still on high alert due to the erratic weather patterns.

"As could be observed over the past 48 hours, we can't discount the possibility of more heavy rain at any time, causing the floods to get worse.

"Evacuees who have been allowed to return home were advised to be prepared for re-evacuation in case the situation takes a

turn for the worse," he said.

Main roads that are still closed are stretches along Km19 of Jalan Pekan to Kuantan, near Kampung Ubai, and Km77 of Jalan Muadzam Shah to Kuantan.

In **Johor**, more evacuees returned home, after the flood situation in the state improved over the past 24 hours.

All of the relief centres in Mersing have been closed since noon yesterday, leaving only flood victims in Muar, Batu Pahat and Segamat still seeking shelter.

The state flood operation centre spokesman said there were 3,602 victims from 936 families at 43 relief centres in Muar, Batu Pahat and Segamat.

Muar overtook Segamat as the

worst-hit district with 1,782 evacuees seeking shelter in 16 flood relief centres.

There are 1,694 evacuees from 446 families at 22 relief centres in Segamat and 126 victims from 26 families at five relief centres in Batu Pahat.

Several roads in Muar and Segamat are still closed to all vehicles including Jalan Muar-Pagoh-Labis near Bukit Kepong while Jalan Muar-Pagoh-Labis near Kampung Jawa Lenga is open only to heavy vehicles.

In Batu Pahat, Jalan Yong Peng-Parit Sulong will be closed until Jan 12 next year following a landslide.

Motorists should use Jalan Tongkang Pecah-Jalan Parit Jalil as an alternative route.