



The prime minister's wife and Girl Guides Association Malaysia president **Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor** (left) and its deputy president **Raja Puan Muda Perak Raja Nor Mahani Raja Shahar Shah** (right) and other members of the movement helping to clean up a flood victim's house during a *gotong-royong* in Taman Desa Damai, Gong Badak, Kuala Terengganu, yesterday. Pic by Aswadi Alias

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Agencies ready for 3rd wave of floods

KUALA TERENGGANU: The Terengganu Welfare Department and other government agencies are fully prepared for the possibility of a third wave of floods in the state.

State Welfare Department director Zuhani Omar said the department had bought more than RM700,000 worth of food items and there were ample supplies to cater to the needs of flood victims if a third wave came.

"We are prepared for any eventualities, including the possibility of another wave of floods."

He said the department was still finalising the estimated losses suffered during the first and second waves of floods that hit the state last month.

"We are doing the estimation for each district, including finalising the evacuees' list, beginning with Kuala Terengganu."

He was speaking after a flood aid presentation ceremony to aid 77 families officiated by the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, at Taman Desa Damai here yesterday.

He said it was necessary to double check the evacuees' list to prevent fraudulent claims.

"In the past, there were attempts by unscrupulous people to register themselves at flood evacuation centres although they were not flood victims," he said.

State Security Council chief assistant secretary Mohd Sarif Hassan said only flood victims who had

State agencies urged to work with Girl Guides

VIP VISIT: Rosmah urges companies and NGOs to provide assistance to flood victims

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THE prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, yesterday urged all agencies in the states to work together with members of the Girl Guides Association Malaysia (GGAM) to help those affected by the floods during this monsoon season.

She said the support and encouragement from the agencies, especially those involved in rescue activities, were important to make their work proceed smoothly.

"My visit today is not only to meet the flood victims but also to see GGAM members doing their bit

to help the needy.

"I found that a leadership by example (going down to the ground) is necessary, but this can only happen with support from other agencies," she said after visiting flood victims at Kampung Siram here yesterday. During the visit, she also distributed food items to 300 flood victims at Kampung Chenerai.

She also called on corporate bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide assistance to the needy, especially flood victims.

"The NGOs and corporate bodies, especially the 'well-to-do groups', can help by providing whatever the victims need so they will not feel that they are alone in facing the problem."

Rosmah, who is GGAM president, also announced a RM5,000 contribution from the association to each flood-prone area they visited.

Later, she visited the former imam of Kampung Siram mosque,

Sulaiman Ngah, whose house is beside the mosque.

Sulaiman, 87, told reporters that he was surprised with the visit and did not expect to meet Rosmah.

"I was only told about it 20 minutes before she came. Before this, I had only seen her on television. Up close, she is a kind person," said the former religious teacher.

The number of flood victims who are still taking shelter at relief centres in Kelantan dropped to 26 compared with 41 on Thursday.

A spokesman from the state flood operations room said flood victims were being sheltered at SK Bukit Awang in Pasir Putih and SK Tiong. He said as of 5.30pm yesterday, Sungai Golok was 1.06m above the danger level of 9m while other rivers were below the danger mark.

Earlier, Rosmah visited flood victims in Kuala Terengganu.

Trader Mustafa Hussin, 60, of Taman Desa Damai, Gong Badak,

was touched when Rosmah and GGAM members helped to clean up his house during a gotong-royong.

After the clean up, Rosmah also handed over RM500 aid from the Welfare Department to 77 flood victims and a RM5,000 contribution to the Taman Desa Damai residents' association.

Present was Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Said and GGAM Terengganu president Tengku Datin Seri Ramlah Azizah Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah.

Primary school teacher Noraini Ismail, 36, said the RM500 aid would help her cope with the losses she suffered in the floods.

Her house in Taman Desa Darul Iman here was under half a metre of floodwater which damaged her furniture.

"My family had to spend four days at SK Gong Badak relief centre for the floods to recede. The aid is timely.

"Apart from coping with the floods, we had to prepare our children's schooling needs," she said.

More than 20,000 people were evacuated during the two waves of floods that hit Terengganu last month.

said only flood victims who had been evacuated were eligible for the RM500 aid.

He said those who had refused to move to evacuation centres were not eligible although their homes were flooded.

"One of the conditions is that there must be a flood and the victims must follow instructions to evacuate. Moving from the ground floor of a flooded home to the first floor does not count as an evacuation," he said.

"There are two categories of evacuees; those who move to designated evacuation centres and those who move to houses of relatives or other safe places."

Sarif said fraudulent claims usually involved the second category.

"That is why we will need to double check the list of flood victims before giving out the RM500 aid to each eligible family."

He said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission would be informed if there were complaints from the public about ineligible people receiving flood aid.

The flood situation in Terengganu was almost back to normal yesterday with only one evacuation centre, sheltering 21 people in Kampung Nyatoh, Setiu, still open.

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Sulaiman Ngah
former religious teacher*