

PRIME NEWS



Families living in tents at the Layang-Layangan Fire Station hall in Labuan, which was turned into a relief centre following the flash floods and landslides caused by Typhoon Melor. Bernama pic

MAB bans personal vehicles from planes

SEPANG: Malaysia Airlines Berhad (MAB) will prohibit the carriage of small vehicles powered by lithium-ion batteries in passenger-checked and carry-on baggage for air travel.

The restriction is due to the decision that small vehicles powered by lithium-ion batteries fall under the classification of "Dangerous Goods".

The prohibition came into effect today on all MAB flights.

"This restriction has been recommended to all operators by the International Air Transport Association to ensure the safety of air travellers," said the national carrier in a statement yesterday.

It added that these small vehicles, or Personal Movement Devices, which included airwheels, solowheels, hoverboards, mini-Segways, balance wheels and other self-balancing vehicles, are considered fire hazards.

"Therefore, Malaysia Airlines would like to remind passengers that it prohibits the carriage of all such devices (with or without batteries) as checked and/or carry-on baggage," the statement read.

"The above measures apply to Malaysia Airlines flights out of all airports, including charter opera-

Flood: 29 victims in Labuan

RELIEF: Town fire station serves as shelter in Labuan, while 3 remain open in Shah Alam

LABUAN

FLASH floods and landslides caused by heavy downpour from Typhoon Melor have temporarily displaced 29 people here.

Rescue and relief operations were carried out in full swing by the relevant departments and agencies led by the Labuan Fire and Rescue Department and Civil Defence Department.

The Layang-Layangan Fire Station hall, which was turned into a relief centre, took in 15 people on Thursday, and 14 more yesterday, following the flash floods in Kampung Sungai Bangat and a landslide in Kampung Sungai Bedaun here.

The Social Welfare Department, Federal Territories Islamic Religious Council, Labuan parliamentary constituency office and Labuan Corporation provided the basic necessities for the victims.

Irrigation and Drainage Department personnel, as well as firemen were placed on standby since Thurs-

day afternoon for any eventualities and to clear clogged drains.

The Labuan Health Department sent its health inspectors to the relief centre to monitor hygiene and health to prevent incidents of water-borne diseases.

Labuan Fire and Rescue director Zainal Madasin said the landslide at Kampung Sungai Bedaun, which occurred a few minutes after midnight, nearly hit a house.

"There have also been calls since Thursday about uprooted trees in several villages," said Zainal.

In **Shah Alam**, only three relief centres remained open, compared with four on Thursday night.

Selangor Fire and Rescue operations assistant director Mohd Sani Harul said the relief centre at Sekolah Kebangsaan Pasangan, Kampung Asahan, Kuala Selangor, is sheltering 131 people from 35 families.

"The relief centre at Balairaya Kampung Parit Mahang, Kuala Selangor, has 102 people, while the one at Balairaya Bukit Kuching, Kuala Selangor, has 35 people," he said.

In **Manjung**, Perak, strong winds and thunderstorms wreaked havoc, destroying 14 houses in Ayer Tawar near here, on Wednesday.

Kampung Ladang Changkat Cermin village head Mohd Sharidan Hamdan, 38, said he was with his uncle and brother at a restaurant when the incident occurred at 5.40pm.

"The rain was so heavy and the

wind was blowing hard that even the tables and chairs started moving.

"This was the first time something like this had happened. I was really shocked," he said.

Kampung Paya Nibong village chief Mustafa Nawary said the storm

lasted 10 minutes and caused a lot of damage to houses in the village.

A plantation worker in Ladang Changkat Cermin, who declined to be named, said part of his employee's hostel roof was blown away by strong winds. **Bernama**

tions and connecting passengers from other airlines."

It added that the restriction is also in effect at all MAB check-in points worldwide.



Some of the flood victims at the Sekolah Kebangsaan Pasangan shelter in Kampung Asahan, Kuala Selangor. Pic by Suzaini Sulaiman