

This year's monsoon more serious than previous ones

SANDAKAN: The current north-east monsoon season has hit harder than previous ones in the country, going by the number of people evacuated due to floods.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak Affairs and Special Functions) Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali said that in a month, the number of evacuees had shot to 121,864, reflecting about 67% of the total that was evacuated throughout the entire previous monsoon season.

He said the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma), which is under his ministry, would carry out round-the-clock monitoring until March this year. The move started in November.

Speaking to reporters after visiting victims of the king tide phenomenon that had destroyed 108 houses in Kampung Forest here since Dec 24, Armizan said based on forecasts, the current weather condition could continue until the end of the year.

The minister also thanked various agencies for acting quickly in evacuating people during the high tide incident in Sabah, noting that their action had ensured no lives were lost.

The high tide phenomenon at the coastal squatter colony of Kampung Forest had destroyed 108 houses and damaged others in the area.

A total of 106 families comprising 705 people are being sheltered at SK Sungai Anib 2.

Armizan said they were looking at measures to assist the victims and considering the possibility of allowing the Kampung Forest victims to stay longer at the temporary relief centre.