

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015




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Floods reported in 13 sub-districts across Brunei



A family members at the porch of their house during a flood in Temburong District. Picture: Courtesy of Temburong District Office

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BRUNEI-MUARA

Monday, January 26, 2015

FLOODS were reported in 13 sub-districts of the Brunei-Muara, Tutong and Temburong districts after a heavy downpour on Saturday night.

The Public Works Department (PWD) said in a statement yesterday that the rainfall level on January 24 measured in the range of 100mm to 150mm.

It added that the amount of rainfall recorded was abnormal and a high tide of 2.4m from 2am until 4am had caused flooding in 13 mukims at three districts.

The flooded areas were Mukim Kiudang, Mukim Keriam, Mukim Sengkuring, Mukim Pengkalan Batu, Mukim Kilanas, Mukim Gadong A, Mukim Gadong B, Mukim Berakas A, Mukim Berakas B, Mukim Mentiri, Mukim Serasa, Bangar and Mukim Bokok.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Hj Hazair Hj Abdullah visited Kg Mulaut in Mukim Kilanas and Kg Tagap in Mukim Sengkuring yesterday and distributed 200 containers of packed meals and 240 bottles of bottled water to the affected families.

The MCYS in a statement said volunteers and trainees of *Program Khidmat Bakti Negara* (PKBN) would be dispatched to assist in cleaning up the affected areas.

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Amongst the affected areas in the Temburong district were Kg Belais, Kg Paya Bagangan, Kg Bokok, Kg Meniup and Kg Tamada.

Hj Emran said the flood started around 1am in the morning yesterday and the affected areas were mostly low-lying areas.

Nevertheless, with the strong support of the community members in Mukim Bokok, volunteers and the youth joined forces in moving the victims' belongings out the flooded houses.

Meanwhile, some residents in the Brunei-Muara District voiced concern over the inadequate drainage system that causing the flood.

Some residents in Mukim Gadong B urged relevant government agencies to improve the drainage system in their neighbourhood as the current bad system has worsened the situation.

A resident at Jalan Beribi, Joshua Tan, said flash flood happened twice this year, damaging properties and disrupting daily operation.

He said that he parked several of his cars up the hill located close by his neighbours.

Joshua filed the complaint to PWD yesterday, only to be notified that he was on a waiting list.

Another resident, Adriana Asmie, said the flood two nights ago blocked the entry point at Simpang 144 which housed more than 30 residences.

"We were coming from a night out and the flood at the simpang reached up to one-feet. We have to stay at a hotel over the night and found our house inundated the next day," she said.

Hj Momin Hj Sawal, a resident at Jln Beribi, said the flood damaged several of his vehicles and he has to send his affected cars to the workshop for repairs.

"I have to change the gearbox and interior parts almost every year," he said, adding that the repairing cost more than \$5,000 to damage goods.

Meanwhile, a resident at Kg Mulaut in Mukim Sengkurong, who called herself Ustazah, said the flood receded yesterday morning. The flood was not as bad as the previous years.

A resident at Mukim Lumapas, Hj Hafiz Raman, said the flood receded quickly and he was thankful for the drainage expansion by the PWD.

Brunei Legislative Council Member Yang Berhormat Hj Jumat Akim said the drainage expansion at Kg Junjongan and Kg Lumapas have reduced the flood levels in the areas.

"Many residents have returned to their respective houses yesterday," he said.

Fire and Rescue Department Public Relation Officer said a total of 15 calls for patrolling flooded areas were made on December 24. Some of the areas were Kg Selayun, Kg Jerudong, Kg Tanjong Nangka, Kg Tagap and Kg Mulaut.

The Incident Command Post in Tutong reported that water levels in Mukim Lamunin and Mukim Kiudang have receded considerably over the past few weeks because the heavy rain falls were only concentrated in the Brunei-Muara district.

Lina Tejada, a resident in Kg Jerudong said the downpour did not enter her house as the flood only affected the roads in front her house.

Meanwhile, Jim Tokkong, a waiter at the Jerudong Park Country Club Food Court, said the flood caused water to enter his apartment at Kg Jerudong.

He said the flood destroyed a number of his personal belongings, such as laptop and clothings.

A security guard stationed in one of the posts at the Jerudong Park Country Club Food Court, who opted for anonymity, said the flood was knee-deep and prevented vehicles to access the roundabout at the Jerudong Park Playground.

He was on duty at the time and said the flood receded around 4am in the morning.

The Meteorological Observation Station at Brunei International Airport said the rainfall recorded this month was 377.8 mm.

"The heavy intensity of rains was the result of the combination of active moisture convergence over the North West Borneo and the Northeast Monsoon Surges," said the Meteorological Department.

The Brunei Times

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