



Published on *The Brunei Times* (<http://www.bt.com.bn>)

Strong winds pound Brunei

Abdul Azim Kassim and Analisa Amu

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

Saturday, July 11, 2015

STRONG winds brought by Typhoon Chan-hom ripped off the roofs of about 50 houses in Brunei and left many fallen trees in its wake, disrupting power lines and plunging many villages into darkness.

Firefighters did not receive any reports of death or injuries from residents of villages affected by the strong winds that lashed Brunei, with speeds reaching approximately 56km per hour.

The Meteorological Department recorded the strong winds first reached Brunei at 2.25pm yesterday in Belait and moved eastwards. The wind gusts recorded were triple the sultanate's average of 10 to 20km per hour.

Authorities have yet to put an estimate to the damages caused by the storm.

The Fire and Rescue Department received more than 250 emergency calls on power supply interruption and detached rooftops yesterday. Authorities had to switch off supply to some villages for safety reasons.

Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Hj Awg Halbi Hj Md Yussof said 200 of the calls were on power outage and 59 on detached rooftops.

Director of Fire and Rescue Department Yahya Hj Abd Rahman said they were still receiving calls as of press time.

"We are still receiving distress calls regarding the matter and we tried our best to assist them with priority to areas seriously affected like fallen trees that blocked main roads," he said during a visit by senior government officials to inspect the condition of Kampong Ayer residents after the passing of the storm.

Acting Director of the Department of Electrical Services (DES) Musa Matali told *The Brunei Times* in a phone interview that over 50 areas across the sultanate – including several parts of Kg Lambak Kanan, Jalan Muara, Kg Lumapas and more – were left without electricity.

"We (DES) are trying to regain power supply as soon as we can, thus we have deployed more manpower to assist in our repair operations," he said.

The department has received calls from residents in the Tutong, Belait and Brunei-Muara districts.

He surmised that trees fell on power lines and caused many of the power outages.

In Kampong Ayer, Pehin Dato Hj Awg Halbi said power supply in some areas were temporarily shut off for safety reasons.

“Do not attempt to fix the blackout with your own hands because this has happened before in Kg Tamoi and we do not want anyone to be hurt,” he said.

“Power will only be restored when DES verifies that it is safe because this is not just an issue of restoring electricity but also ensuring the people’s safety.”

“(Today) the true statistics of the whole aftermath will be compiled but so far there are indeed certain areas of the village that appear far worse off than we have seen in the past. This is certainly not the first time Kg Ayer has been hit,” he said.

“Every government agency is working as best they can, mobilising efforts as soon as possible as time is limited, especially with Hari Raya looming.”

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Hj Hazair Hj Abdullah, who was also in the entourage at Kg Ayer yesterday, said relevant agencies under the ministry had taken immediate action to help those affected.

“The reason for our visit tonight is to assess and provide assistance to the affected families like if they require shelter or food for *sahur*... We will locate them to a temporary shelter and provide packed meals,” he said.

Both senior government officials also called upon the relevant agencies to work together promptly to meet the people’s needs.

Also participating in the inspection was Energy Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Hj Mohammad Yasmin Hj Umar.

In an interview, an officer from the Brunei International Airport Flight Arrival Information said three flights were delayed. No Royal Brunei Airlines flights were affected.

According to the latest forecast issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Centre, Hawaii USA, Typhoon Chan-hom is forecasted to propagate northwestwards towards Shanghai in the next few days, hence the tail end effect and intensity of the squally showers over the country are expected to gradually reduce.

The department, however, warned of the possibility of another active typhoon influencing weather conditions in the region, with occasional crossing of squally showers in the coming week.

Meanwhile, the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) advised road users not to speed, and to switch on their headlights. – *Additional reporting by Billah Hasan, Abdul Aziz Ismail and Rachel Thien*

The Brunei Times

For news videos and features, visit [this page](#) and drop by next time to see the latest. View a few vids and leave a comment if you wish.

We have our daily web newscast. Our journalists take turns presenting our news summaries so you know tomorrow’s stories even before they are printed. You may visit [this directory](#) to see when new editions are up on the site. You may also subscribe to our [Youtube](#) channel so you get the new vids once we upload them.

We've '[bookmarked](#)' the interesting stories/pages of The Brunei Times for you.

Check out our young [columnists](#). Excessive Thoughts. On The Road. Refresh. Tech Brat. If you disagree, feel free to leave a comment.

When a reader is not happy about something and wants Brunei to know about it or act on a problem or issue, [this](#) is where the complaint is posted.

Have a good day.

[VISIT our multimedia features [page](#). CLICK on this [link](#) to find pages that list some of the interesting content of the paper as well as its popular pages. FOLLOW us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).]

More related stories:

- [France keen on improving education ties with Brunei](#)
- [Ornamental flowers gain favour](#)
- [Researchers work on 'driverless' cars](#)
- [Imams call for endless blessings for HM's birthday](#)

Source URL: <http://www.bt.com.bn/frontpage-news-national/2015/07/11/strong-winds-pound-brunei>