
KUCHING SUBMERGED IN FLOODWATER

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Floodwater brought by heavy rains yesterday swept through main roads in Kuching City, Sarawak in Malaysia, submerging cars, buildings and houses. Picture: Bernama

A HEAVY rainfall since early yesterday morning caused flooding in some areas around the city, and most roads became congested as floodwaters rendered them impassable to traffic.

Shortly before noon yesterday, the heavy downpour was still continuing around Kuching and several stalled vehicles were left on the flooded roads.

Several key places were also seen flooded, including the Sarawak General Hospital, Sarawak Contingent Police Headquarters at Jalan Badaruddin, Padungan fire and rescue station, Faculty of Medicine at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Universiti Teknologi MARA Samarahan campus and areas around Padang Merdeka.

Sarawak Fire and Rescue Department's assistant director of operations Farhan Sufyan Borhan said the department was helping to temporarily move the patients from the ground floor of the hospital to the upper level.

He said since 6am yesterday, the department received at least 17 emergency calls at every hour about the floods and they were still working hard to provide assistance.

Farhan said the affected areas include Kampung Selipar Putus, Kampung Tabuan Dayak, Padungan, Batu Lintang, the residential area in Samarahan and several villages in Bau.

Meanwhile, a landslide was also reported to occur yesterday at KM18 Jalan Serian Tebedu, which made the road impassable.

Several villagers who lived around the river banks, especially in Kuching and Serian, were evacuated, but the total number had yet to be finalised.

State government data said the flood displaced 631 individuals from 195 families in Serian district since Friday night.

They were staying in two evacuation centres.