

FEEDBACK TO SMS VIEWS THE STAR ON 09 NOVEMBER 2009

The Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD) would like to refer to SMS VIEWS which was published in The Star newspaper on Monday, 9 November 2009 regarding "Why no warning?". MMD would like to clarify that the floods which occurred over Kelantan and Terengganu from 06 November 2009 were due to heavy monsoon rain brought by the early onset of the Northeast monsoon. **No tropical storm occurred over our country during that period.**

For the case of floods in Terengganu and Kelantan, MMD issued a Heavy Rainfall Warning at 3.45 pm on 4 November 2009 for Kelantan and Terengganu. At 1.30 pm, on 05 November 2009, the warning was upgraded to a Yellow Stage Heavy Rain Warning which stated that heavy rain would last until Sunday, 08 November 2009 and this can cause floods in those states. The Yellow Stage Warning was further upgraded at 9.20 pm on the 05 November 2009 to an Orange Stage Warning stating the possibility of fairly widespread floods. On the 06 November 2009, the warning was further upgraded to a Red Stage Warning stating that the very heavy monsoon rain could result in widespread floods in the states of Kelantan and Terengganu. The weather started improving on the 07 November 2009.

For the states of Perlis, Kedah, and Perak, a Yellow Category Heavy Rainfall Warning was issued at 9.30 pm on the 05 November 2009, and the warning stated the possibility of floods in Perlis, Kedah and north Perak. The weather also started improved on the 07 November 2009.

The floods that are still occurring in certain parts of Kelantan, Kedah and north Perak are mainly due to the flow of water from upstream.

We wish to inform that all heavy rainfall warnings were sent to the TV and Radio stations as well as to the print media for dissemination to the public. The warning information was also sent to the states and federal agencies involved in disaster management and relief and NGO's involved in disaster relief. The warning information was also published at MMD's official website www.met.gov.my. The Central Forecast Office at MMD operates 24 hours daily and monitors closely the changing weather situation and issues adverse weather advisories and warnings when the needs arise. The public can also call the Central Forecast Office at Petaling Jaya for weather warning information and updates at 03-79678116 and 03-79570553.

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