



1 People wading through a flooded road near the Masjid Jamek Light Rail Transit Station in Kuala Lumpur. PIC BY HAZREEN MOHAMAD

2 The area outside the Masjid Jamek Light Rail Transit Station in Kuala Lumpur, which was hit by floods yesterday. PIC BY HAZREEN MOHAMAD

3 A merchant sitting on a chair with his legs on a display shelf in an effort to stay dry in Lebuah Ampang, Kuala Lumpur. PIC BY USMAN ADNAN

4 A man attempting to recover his motorcycle after a downpour inundated the area near the Masjid Jamek Light Rail Transit Station in Kuala Lumpur. PIC BY HAZREEN MOHAMAD



KUALA LUMPUR INUNDATED

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THE National Weather and Geophysics Operations centre said there was nothing unusual about the heavy rainfall that pummelled the city yesterday.

It reported that the total rainfall at 4pm, the peak of yesterday's thunderstorm that saw vehicles submerged and parts of the city inundated, was 44.5mm, which is normal for an average rainy day in Malaysia.

A meteorologist from the centre said the flash flood was a result of other factors.

"There was heavy rain between 2pm and around 6pm. While this is not unusual for Kuala Lumpur, there are other reasons why today's (yesterday's) incident brought flooding on such a scale.

"This includes rivers breaching their limit and possible overflowing, drains operating beyond their capacity or overdevelopment."

Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan said his officers had given him a preliminary briefing and attributed the flooding to "extremely heavy rainfall" that caused the river table to rise to almost overflowing in several parts.

He said that blocked drains were a factor in some areas.

He said City Hall's flood response team confirmed that the worst-hit areas were Bukit Bintang, Wangsa Maju and Titiwangsa.

"The floodwaters are receding in Jalan Ampang, Jalan Munshi Abdullah and Dang Wangi," he said, confirming what the Meteorological Department's officer had said earlier that the rainfall had dipped to 37.7mm by 5pm and had eased further in the following hours.

Nor Hisham said City Hall officers had been deployed to conduct flood mitigation work and recovery measures.

He said a flood operations centre was opened to monitor the situation and aid those in need.

Meanwhile, National Weather and Geophysics Operations director Dr Mohd Hisham Mohd Anip said the weak Southwest Monsoon effect meant that Malaysia would experience wet days throughout the year.

"The inter-monsoon period begins in the middle of this month and would last two months before the Northeast Monsoon, which goes on till March.

"That means that the authorities and the public need to be ready for rainy weather throughout the year."

Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annu



ar Musa visited several badly flooded areas yesterday.

It was reported that five areas in the city were severely affected by flash floods.

The Fire and Rescue Department (Operations Centre) said the affected areas were Lebuah Ampang, Jalan Raja Alang in Kampung Baru, Jalan Gurney Kiri Off Jalan Semarak, Lorong Ayer Leleh, and Jalan San Ah Wing in Kampung Semarak.

A 3m-deep flash flood in Jalan Gurney Kiri, Off Jalan Semarak, affected 10 people, it said.

"However, no casualties were reported in other areas. Lebuah Ampang recorded a 1.8m-deep water level, while Jalan Raja Alang recorded 0.1m.

"Water overflowed in Lorong Ayer Leleh

and Jalan San Ah Wing.

"The department will monitor the situation at the flooded sites and ensure public safety," it said.

Photographs of the flooded city, such as that of Masjid Jamek "on an island", had gone viral yesterday.

Other photos showed sections of Jalan Tun H.S. Lee in thigh-deep water, with restaurants along the stretch submerged.

Another video showed a stretch along Jalan Dang Wangi under floodwater, with several motorcycles stranded nearby.

Page 1 caption: The scene at Masjid Jamek in Kuala Lumpur at the height of the flooding yesterday.



5 A merchant removing water from her business premises in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY USMAN ADNAN



6 A Hospital Puarawi employee wading through floodwaters in Jalan Tun Razak.

7 Cars left stranded due to the high water level in Jalan Tun Perak. PIC BY MOHD TUSNI ARIFIN

8 People pushing a car after it stalled in Jalan Sultan Ismail.

