

Temporary Shelter Programme for Post Flood Disaster

IEM WOMEN ENGINEER SECTION



reported by
Ir. Suhana Abdul Majid

Ir. Suhana Abdul Majid holds a Degree in Civil Engineering from University of Glasgow, Scotland. She is currently the Managing Director of Prestasi Perintis Sdn. Bhd., an engineering consulting firm and has been involved in various projects related to infrastructure design, project management and asset management services in the transportation sector as well as mixed development projects.

The recent floods in Kelantan were reported to be the worst in the past decade. Jabatan Pengairan & Saliran Kelantan reported that the rise in water levels was due to heavy rain in Ulu Kelantan from 17 December to 24 December 2014, causing the water level to peak on 24 December 2014. Continuous heavy rain since 17 December at the upstream section of the rivers caused the excess water to flood the catchment area downstream. The rain gauge station in Gunung Gagau, Gua Musang, recorded 507mm of rain water that day compared to 20mm recorded the previous day.

The floods not only destroyed public property but also forced 104,000 people to be placed in temporary shelters. Considerable damage included the destruction of houses as well as disruption to the infrastructure, especially in Kuala Krai, Gua Musang and Tanah Merah.

Mercy Malaysia (Medical Relief Society Malaysia) is a non-profit organisation that provides medical relief, sustainable health related development and risk reduction activities for vulnerable communities in both crisis and non-crisis situations. As part of its



Temporary Shelter for flood victim whose house was destroyed

humanitarian and recovery activities for flood victims in Kelantan, Mercy Malaysia constructed a Temporary Shelter Programme in Kuala Krai, Kelantan as a post flood disaster relief.

It requested the help of volunteer engineers to conduct an independent site visit in order to assess temporary shelters that were completed as well as under construction in Kampung Tualang, Kampung Bekok and Kampung Temangan in Kuala Krai. This was carried out by a volunteer from IEM Women Engineer Section in March 2015.

The temporary shelters were designed such that the completed structures were easily movable. They could be lifted from their current position and transferred elsewhere. The construction work for each unit took 2-3 days to complete. Local carpenters were involved in the construction and the work was coordinated and supervised by volunteers attached to Mercy Malaysia. Assessment was carried out on randomly selected units.

The shelters were built for flood victims whose houses were totally/badly damaged during the floods. These victims stayed in tents after the flood waters receded. Mercy Malaysia also provided aid to supply clean water to the victims and for the repair of toilets. ■



Temporary Shelter for flood victim whose house was badly