

Choppers on hand to supply aid

PETALING JAYA: Helicopters deployed by transportation specialist Weststar Group of Companies are on the ground sending much-needed food and medical supplies to flood victims.

The four choppers – Eurocopter Squirrel, Eurocopter Dauphin, AgustaWestland AW139 and AgustaWestland AW139-VIP – with nine pilots and 16 engineers and technicians on board have been set aside for the mission since last Saturday to expedite the transportation of the supplies and essential items.

Its corporate affairs director Muhaini Mahmud said the Weststar members on the mission were working with Majlis Agama Islam Kelantan (MAIK) with the help of non-governmental organisation, Save East Coast.

“Our flying missions operate for 12 hours every day from 7am to 7pm. Meanwhile, preparation for the deliveries is done throughout the day.

“Furthermore, Civil Defence personnel lend ground support to our crew,” he said in a statement.

He added that bad weather, the waterlogged ground and unsuitable landing areas were some of the obstacles they face.

“We are working round the clock to have more missions commissioned in our effort to reach out to the affected areas with more efficiency,” Muhaini said, adding that in areas where their helicopters did not have accessibility, they would coordinate with the locals to execute supply drops.