

... and more is on the way

POST REPORTERS

More rain is forecast for all regions into next week, even though Storm Sinlaku has left the country.

Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) yesterday predicted sporadic rain in the northern, northeastern, eastern and southern regions until Tuesday, with flash floods possible in some areas.

Most parts of the country have had little rainfall this year but received a deluge when Sinlaku moved in last weekend, before it lost strength and moved away.

The Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department said the storm affected 20,622 households in 13 provinces and caused three fatal incidents, in Nong Bua Lam Phu, Phitsanulok and Udon Thani. The flooding had since eased in all provinces and assistance was provided to the affected areas, it added.

The precipitation brought by the tropical storm to much of the country has been welcome but some areas in the Northeast, especially Nakhon Ratchasima, are still suffering from water shortages.

The Mun Bon dam in Khon Buri district, one of the five major dams in the province, has only 24.42 million cubic metres of water in its reservoir.

That equates to about 17% of its capacity of 141 million cubic metres, according to Sakda Yudet, the director of irrigation and maintenance at the dam.

Eight months into the year, only 6.46 million cubic metres of rainwater has flowed into the reservoir, whereas the average annual water intake is 94 million cubic metres.

As a result, the dam cannot distribute much-needed water to farms through irrigation canals.

About 5,000 rai in tambons Chora-khe Hin, Oraphim and Khon Buri Tai of Khon Buri district are now without water and rice plants are dying.

Meanwhile, the Department of Highways (DoH) yesterday announced the re-opening of the steel bridge on the Chiang Mai-Chiang Rai road in Chiang Mai's Doi Saket district.

The DoH shut the bridge on Tuesday after it was damaged by forest run-off but it was swiftly repaired.