Media : Berita Harian/Page 26 (SMART)
Date : 24 June 200

Projek SMART turut diguna bagi laluan trafik

KUALA LUMPUR 23 Jun — Projek Stormwater Management And Road Tunnel (SMART) yang dirangka untuk mengatasi masalah banjir di ibu negara akan turut digunakan sebagai laluan trafik.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS), Datuk Dr. Keizrul Abdullah berkata, ia telah direka bentuk untuk dwi fungsi berikutan kos pembinaannya yang tinggi.

Menurutnya, apabila siap kelak, terowong itu akan mempunyai dua tingkat jalan raya dan lingkaran penghubung akan di bina di tiga tempat untuk menghubungkannya dengan sistem jalan raya sedia ada.

"Terowong bernilai lebih RM2 bilion itu akan mempunyai laluan bawah tanah sejauh 9.7 kilometer, bermula dari Kampung Berembang, Ampang dan berakhir di kolam bekas lombong Taman Desa.

"Bahagian dwi fungsi membabitkan laluan sepanjang antara tiga hingga empat kilometer, bermula di Bulatan Kampung Pandan dan berakhir di Lebuh Raya Kuala Lumpur-Seremban," katanya dalam sidang akhbar di pejabatnya di sini.

Projek SMART bertujuan memindahkan air dari kawasan tadahan berhampiran Kuala Sungai Ampang/Sungai Klang melalui terowong sebelum dialirkan ke Sungai Klang.

Pelaksanaan projek tersebut akan memastikan Kuala Lumpur bebas banjir selepas tahun 2006.

Konsortium MMC Engineering Group Berhad-Gamuda Berhad telah dilantik untuk melaksanakan projek tersebut.

Keizrul memberitahu, apabila hujan lebat yang memungkinkan banjir laluan trafik akan ditutup.

Jelasnya, dengan sistem pengesanan banjir, pengguna-pengguna terowong itu akan diberikan amaran dua jam lebih awal dan laluan terowong itu mampu dikosongkan dalam tempoh 15 minit.

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KUALA LUMPUR
City News
KUALA LUMPUR CITY HALL

LONG TERM SOLUTION – OVERCOMING WATERY WOES IN THE CITY

Floods particularly flash floods have always been a seasonal problem in the fast growing and urbanizing city of Kuala Lumpur. It is not just Kuala Lumpur that experiences seasonal watery woes, other parts of the nation including major cities around the globe like Tokyo, Seoul, London, Paris etc to face the wrath of nature. The problems are further exacerbated by rapid development, removal of foliage, vegetation and trees that absorb rainwater and slow down water runoff, irresponsible and uncaring public who treat drains, rivers and severage systems as garbage bins, squatters and small medium scale industries that pollute the river systems and many more.

It is very important to educate the public to make them realise why floods/flash floods occur so that they understand the remedial and intervention measures taken by the relevant government bodies, City Hall and agencies to overcome the problem. In this regard, public participation and contribution is vital to prevent flash floods.

Stranded commuters being helped by City Hall personnel and Squad during a flash flood at Jalan Dang Wangi on 29 October 2001. – Photo City News

FLOOD HISTORY IN KUALA LUMPUR

Rainfall occurs throughout the year and the mean annual rainfall in the Klang River averages about 2500mm. Short duration high intensity storms occurring mostly during the inter-monsoon periods of April-May and October-December are the main causes of serious flash floods in the city and its suburbs. While longer duration monsoon events produce widespread flooding in the main water system.

A severe flood in 1971 inundated a total area of 140 square km causing an estimated loss/damage of about RM36 million with nearly 180,000 people affected.

Apart from the 1971 flood deemed to be one of the worst, several other major floods have occurred in 1972, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997.

The most recent floods occured in April and October 2001. Another occurred in June 2002. The three floods resulted in much damage to property. The City centre and particularly areas around the confluence of the Klang and Gombak Rivers were most affected. City Hall was severely castigated for this by the public and the media.

Floods, besides causing damage to property generally result in traffic congestion, social and economic disruptions as the water level rises to more than one metre in some places.

These floods in the city are a seasonal bane to residents living in low lying and flood prone areas. Of late even areas that had never experienced flash floods have begun to do so. The blame apparently is on developers, irresponsible citizens and squatters who could not be bothered in keeping the environment clean and sustainable. The habitat must be maintained and taken care to avoid flooding.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

What everyone needs to understand is that Kuala Lumpur is situated in a valley. It is unavoidable that rainwater that falls in the valley and its surrounding areas will follow the geographical terrain contour and thus find its way to the lowest point. Thus, most of the rain water will flow into the four major drainage systems found in the City. They are the main or primary rivers which are Klang River(16.5 km), the Gombak River(8.2km) and the Batu River(8.1km). Flood prevention along these rivers comes under the jurisdiction of the Drainage and Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture. This 32.8 km waterway is part of the whole primary river system in the Klang Valley which is 171 km long.

This is followed by the major rivers namely the Kerayong(8.9km), Kuyu(7.6km), Bohol(0.8km) and Penchala River(2.5km) which join the Klang River. The Jinjang(4.4km) and Keroh River (8.6km) discharge at the Batu River. The Gombak River is fed by the Kemunsing(4.3km) and the Belongkong River (3.5km). All these eight rivers (40.6km) are also

.....turn to page 2

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK
A FLOOD FREE CITY

In this issue of City News, most of the articles relate to water, flood and flood prevention measures taken by City Hall and the Federal Government (April 11 – May 11 was the Water Sports Carnival Month). Residents in Kuala Lumpur would have realized that the inter monsoon rains have set in and gone. There have been heavy rains following loud claps of thunder and lightning. Fast winds have uprooted trees and brought traffic to a standstill and damage to property and life has resulted. At least a few cases of death were also reported due to natures wrath.

The public would have also been aware that although there was heavy rainfall in the upper reaches of the Gombak, Batu and Klang Rivers and in the City Centre itself and swollen rivers had reached the 29 metre danger level, the city was not flooded. Many remarked that God has been kind to the City and the Mayor. Alhamdulillah, I am grateful to God for that.

But we must realize and understand that although the flood waters were brimming up to the bank, it never overflowed. This is due to the efforts and hardwork put in by City Hall and the Drainage and Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. There was no need to activate any of the flood alert alarm systems installed in the City.

We had taken measures to dredge and deepen the main waterways and also carry out desiltation, clearing the drains and rivers of rubbish and debris and ensure the grass is cut in the river reserves for water to flow smoothly.

The flood pumps and the flapgates were kept in good working order and innovated to act smoothly and efficiently during the floods, thus preventing backflow. City Hall staff must be commended for this. The Variable Sign Electronic Display Boards (VMS) have been commissioned in some parts of the flood prone areas in the City. This is in addition to the Early Flood Warning System installed on 12 tall buildings in the City Centre.

Work on the long term Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART System) has already commenced. The 11.5 km stormwater bypass tunnel costing RM2.05 billion will be ready by 2006.

City folks can soon rest in peace without the fear of floods.

.....from front page.

managed by the Drainage and Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture.

The third system are the Minor Rivers(49.2km) and Main Drains (370km) which comprise of the Bunus(9.6km), Toba(4.2km), Pantai(3.9km), Kayu Ara(3.6km), Air Busuk(2.5km), Puteh(2.4km), Beberas(1.0km), Bras-Bras(4.8km), Untut(3.7km), Batang Tolak(3.8km), Gisir(1.3km), Anak Air Batu(5.0km), Jerneh(1.6km), Merali(0.5km) and Petaling(1.3km). These 15 minor rivers and main drains stretch 419.2km running through most parts of the city.

The fourth category in the hierarchy of the drainage system is the Reticulation Drains. The reticulation drains are a major component of the drainage system in the city. Although small, they are considered very important in controlling flash floods and localized flooding. These drains are found by the roadside, around buildings or development areas, streams drains etc and lead to the small rivers or major rivers in the city. It is estimated that 2400 km of reticulation drainage systems are found in the city, keeping it free of floods. If clogging or backflow occurs, flash floods are inevitable.

As can be seen from the above the two agencies i.e. City Hall and the Drainage and Irrigation Department jointly manage 2859 km of drainage system and waterways within the city itself. It would be interesting to note that rainfall of 40mm per hour ranging to 130mm per hour can fall in the city or at the catchment area upstream.

REASONS FOR FLASH FLOODS

Flash floods in the city can be classified into two categories.

a) Flash floods caused by Local Drainage and small rivers

Flash floods are caused by heavy rain within a short period resulting in run off. The capacity of the drainage system being unable to contain the heavy discharge of water which overflows its banks into low lying area and roads. Normally such floods are not serious but cause irritation and disruption particularly to traffic and pedestrians. Physical sources of flash floods are:

* Increase in rate of water discharge due to rapid development,
* Backflow from river to local drainage system - inability to contain water volume and flow,
* Drainage system blocked due to siltation, construction debris and excessive rubbish in waterway,
* Drainage system clogged at source of river due to construction activity in the vicinity, and
* Drainage of water from reticulation drains and small rivers and tributaries blocked due to backflow and high level of water at main river.

b) Flash floods due to primary and major rivers

Flash floods also occur due to heavy rain for a long duration (more than 3 hours) at source or catchment areas upstream. A high run off rate can also cause water to overflow the river banks and flood the surrounding low lying areas anywhere between the 211.6km of primary and major rivers.

High water levels in the primary rivers can also cause backflow through the minor rivers and main drains resulting in floods in the low lying areas around the reticulation system.

Major flash floods cause much damage to property and evacuation of flood victims to flood relief centres or safe places temporarily, until the floods subside.

CAUSES OF MAJOR FLASH FLOODS

.....continued on page 3

.....from page 2.

Major flash floods are caused by a variety of reasons. This can be due to the limited hydraulic capacity of existing rivers which is insufficient particularly in urban centres where river expansion is impossible.

Backflow of water through the existing drainage system and rivers getting constricted or narrowed due to construction activity in the river reserves such as construction of multilevel highways viaducts and flyovers.

Concentrations of flow at the confluence of the Gombak and Klang Rivers, sedimentation of river channel due to earthworks and obstruction by low bridges and other structures also contribute to sudden flooding.

KL FLOOD DISASTER MITIGATION

The current flooding in Kuala Lumpur city is due to increased water runoff caused by rapid development in the upper catchment of Klang and Ampang Rivers, low conveyance capacity of Klang River, concentration of flow at the confluence of Gombak and Klang River, sedimentation of river channels due to earthworks and obstruction of bridge piers and highway structures.

To alleviate current flooding in Kuala Lumpur especially in the commercial center, higher target levels of protection capable of mitigating floods of longer return periods are intuitively more desirable, as this will minimize the damage to facilities in the flood prone areas and would confer long term stability to the livelihood of the settlers in the flood prone areas. A combination of both structural and non structural measures are adopted to alleviate flooding in Kuala Lumpur city. That is:

a) Structural measure –

i. **The Klang River Flood Bypass Tunnel** under the project titled 'Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) System'.

ii. **Flood Diversions to Batu and Jinjang Ponds**

b) Non Structural measure – Integrated Flood Alert and Information System (Administrative Measure)

Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel System (SMART)

The SMART is partly financed by the Malaysian Government through the privatization concept which is undertaken by Local Companies. The SMART System will construct a tunnel to bypass Kuala Lumpur City Centre to the East with a take – off just down-stream of the Ampang River confluence to a storage pond at Taman Desa and the flood water will be regulated back to the Klang river via its main tributary i.e Kerayong River.

The SMART system will consist of the following components:

a. A holding basin (approximately 8.0 ha in area) located in Kampung Berembang

b. A stormwater bypass tunnel (about 9.7km in length having a 11.8m internal diameter) to divert a maximum 280 cumecs of flood discharge immediately after the confluence of the Klang and Ampang Rivers to Taman Desa pond and release this flood water back into Klang River via its tributary, the Kerayong River

c. The existing ex-mining pond (approximately 23 ha in area) at Taman Desa will act as a storage reservoir

d. A double deck motorway (about 3.0 km in length) within the stormwater bypass tunnel between the KL – Seremban Highway and Kampung Pandan roundabout with two lane carriageway decks (motorway tunnel) will be built. This tunnel carries a dual function i.e. to act as a roadway and a waterway

e. An ingress and egress connection (about 2.0 km in length) to link the motorway tunnel to the KL – Seremban Highway and

f. An ingress and egress connection (about 1.5 km in length) to link the motorway tunnel to Jalan Sultan Ismail and Jalan Tun Razak.

The estimated cost of the project is RM2.05 billion and will be completed by the year 2006.

Flood Diversion to Batu and Jinjang Ponds

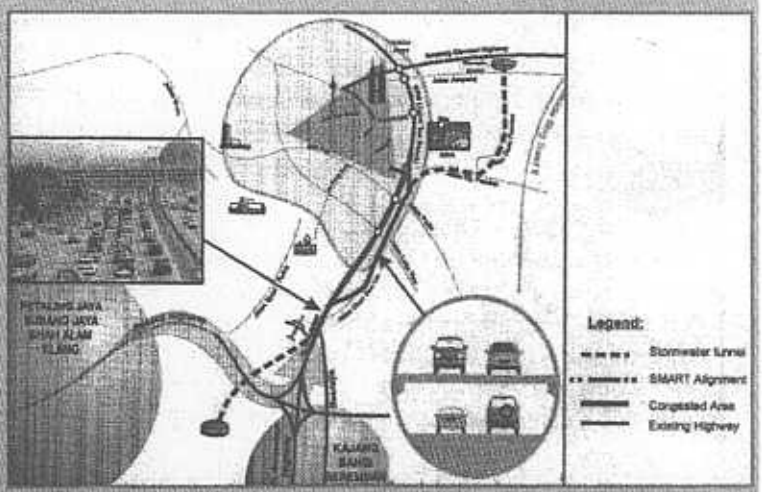
This project is financed by Malaysian Government through Design and Build Concept. The project components consist of:

a. Upgrading the present Gombak Diversion Scheme to channel more flood water from Gombak river to Batu Detention Pond and

b. Construct a new diversion to channel flood water from Keroh River, a tributary of Gombak River to Jinjang Pond (existing ex-mining pond)

The estimated cost of the project is RM500 million and will be completed by the year 2006.

It is a fact that structural flood mitigation measures alone will not provide a long period of flood protection, unless sustainable development is maintained. Sustainable development is realized through proper River Basin Management which is a non-structural measure. Therefore to ensure long term success in flood mitigation, structural and non-structural measure have to be carried out concurrently. At present, The Government of Malaysia is planning to implement the River Basin Management in Klang River Basin called the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM). The function of IRBM is to control and regulate development to maintain a sustainable development and reduce flood impact in the river basin. In line with the central government's policy and to minimize flood loss and damage while waiting for the SMART Tunnel and River Diversion Project to be completed by the year 2006, City Hall Kuala Lumpur has implemented the Integrated Flood Alert and Information System which is a component of IRBM to complement the ongoing structural flood mitigation measures.



Plan of the SMART System to divert flood water - Courtesy of Drainage and River Management Department, DBKL.

ELECTRONIC FLOOD ALERT INFORMATION SYSTEM

City Hall has installed two major flood alert systems in the City following a number of flash floods that disrupted City life and damaged property causing economic loss to residents and businesses.

The floods occurred mostly in the vicinity of the LRT/STAR Masjid Jamek Station, Jalan Dang Wangi/Jalan Munshi Abdullah junction, Jalan Tun Razak at the National Library and Kampung Periok. The General Hospital Kuala Lumpur was also affected and equipment at the operating theatre damaged.

"To avoid doubts and confusion, it is necessary to stress here that the Variable Message Sign Electronic Display Boards which have been installed under the current system is not meant for providing flood and traffic diversion information service to the drivers on the roads."

While waiting for the major flood mitigation projects such as the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) and the Batu and Jinjang Ponds Project to be completed by 2006, City Hall had decided to install the non-structural measures to provide ample warning to the public of impending floods so that residents, businesses and commuters can take preventive measures.

The systems implemented are the Building Flood Alert System(BFAS) implemented in July 2002 and the Variable Message Sign Electronic Display Board for Flood Warning (February 2003).

The Building Flood Alert System is an indoor type of flood warning system which gives alert warning to buildings connected to the systems in the flood prone areas.

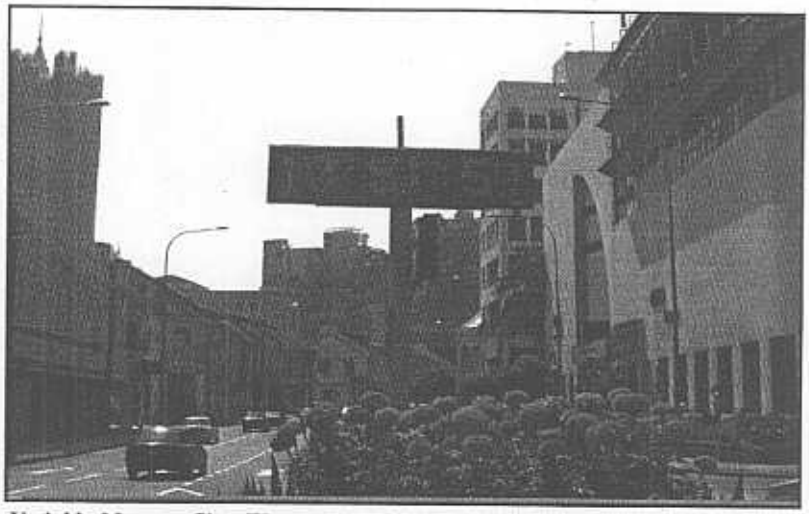
Whenever, there is a predicted flood occurring the terminals are alerted one hour in advance by the ATC control room situated in City Hall via Public System Telephone Network(PSTN). This will give sufficient time for the would be affected parties to intervene or take safety measures. A dozen buildings are installed with this audio-visual alert system.

Variable Message Sign Electronic Display Board

The Variable Message Sign electronic display board for flood warning is an out door type of electronic LED display board installed at strategic locations in identified flood prone areas give flood warning to pedestrians, office workers and local communities living near the VMS electronic display boards. The VMS electronic display board consists of arrays of LED (LIGHT EMITTING DIODES) , as lighting element , housed in a weatherproof chassis and is mounted on a steel structure. When there is a predicted impending flood (one hour before flooding occurs), DBKL flood monitoring unit at ATC control room on the first floor of City Hall Building will send out pre-programmed messages to the VMS boards to give flood alert information to the local communities / office workers to undertake preparedness measures to relocate assets like cars and high value items to safety or moving out of the area before flooding. When activated, the VMS display boards will display pre-programmed messages. At the same time, it also sends out flood alert information via SMS to selected DBKL officers' hand phones .The officers on duty will alert the Disaster Control Room at the Directorate office to activate flood preparedness measures on site to control traffic and flood evacuation works if necessary . During normal situations, the VMS boards will display greeting messages or any government bulletins .These messages can be changed anytime and can be configured to meet localized needs .

Currently, four of the VMS electronic display boards for flood warning have been installed by City Hall in the flood prone areas located at the junction of Jalan Tun Perak / Jalan Melaka, Junction of Jalan Dang Wangi / Jalan Munshi Abdullah , Jalan Tun Razak near the national library and Kampung Periok

To avoid doubts and confusion, it is necessary to stress here that the Variable Message Sign Electronic Display Boards which have been installed under the current system is not meant for providing flood and traffic diversion information service to the drivers on the roads. Such service, however will be provided for in another major project ie The Integrated Transport Information System (I T I S) recently launched by City Hall of Kuala Lumpur. The installation of the variable message sign electronic display board can be expanded to other areas as and when the need arises.



Variable Message Sign Electronic Display Board at Jalan Dang Wangi (from Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman).

PUMPS AND MAINTENANCE IN FLOOD CONTROL

Water pumps play a vital role in flood prevention in the city. In fact, if it was not for the 12 permanent and 8 temporary standby pumps installed at various flood prone areas, parts of the city would be flooded disrupting normal activities of city residents.

Pumping stations are located at Jalan Munshi Abdullah (2 pumps in 2002), LRT Station at Masjid jamek (2 pumps), behind Jalan Yap Kwan Seng (3 pumps) and Tiong Nam Area (3 pumps) which were just installed. Temporary standby pumps are also installed at Lorong Keramat 6 (2 pumps), Lorong Keramat 21 (2 pumps), Sri Perlis Flat (2 pumps), Kg. Baru (1 pump) and Lorong Abdul Samad (1 pump).

In addition, the flap gates controlling waterflow have been changed or modified to function more efficiently to prevent back-flow from the Sungai Kelang once it reaches the danger mark water level at 29 metres.

When there is a 60 plus mm per hour rainfall at the catchment area of Sg. Klang and Ampang Rivers coupled with a high rainfall of 40 mm per hour at the City centre, the water level will rise at the City center to 29 metres resulting in a backflow at the Sg Bunus and Masjid Jamek main drainage.

The pumps are regularly serviced and desilting works are carried out yearly to prevent flooding. Constant surveillance and maintenance is also conducted on static screens and booms. The Drainage and River Management Department also maintains the river reserves and banks, cutting the grass, repairing collapsed banks and guard rails, rectifying slope failure which is a frequent occurrence. Mopping up operations are also conducted after floods in addition to daily maintenance.

ROAD DIVERSION ALONG KM 1 OF THE KL - SEREMBAN HIGHWAY

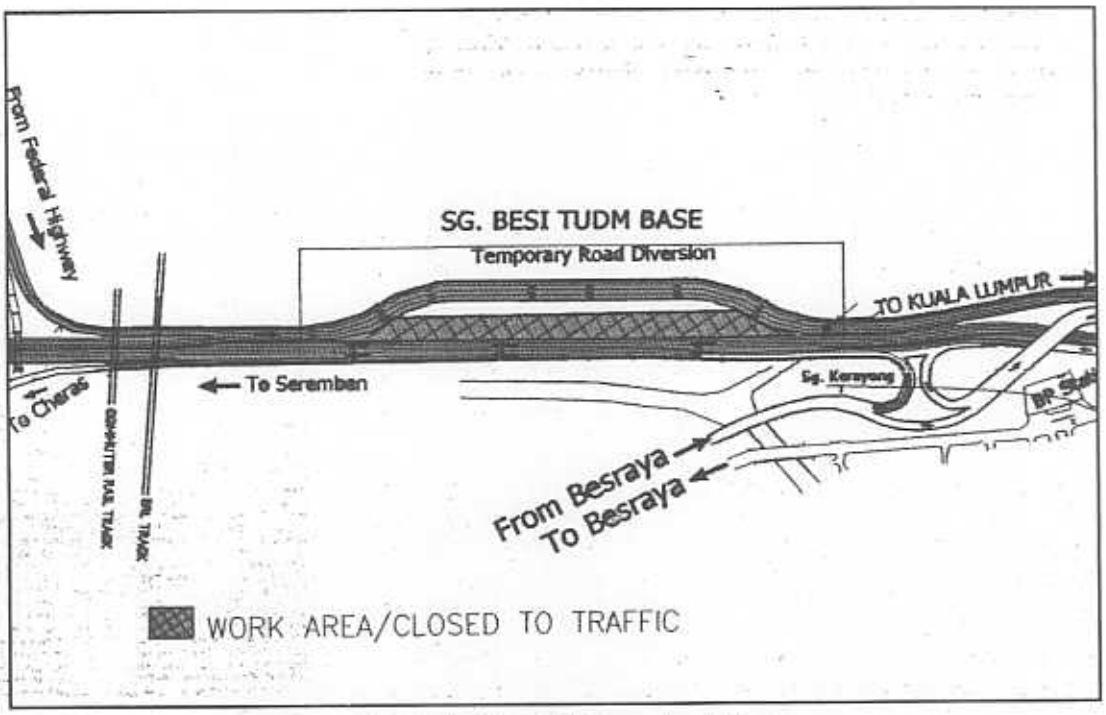
To facilitate the commencement of the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) flood mitigation project, there will be a traffic diversion along the KL-Seremban Highway at KM 1 for KL – bound traffic. The diversion will be implemented at the stretch in front of the RMAF air base in Sungai Besi beginning 12 midnight on May 30.

The diversion is expected to be effective for ten months. Traffic from the affected stretch will be diverted onto temporary lanes constructed parallel to the existing lanes. The number of lanes provided will remain the same at three and an emergency lane.

The Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) is a project initiated and implemented by the Federal Government under the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) to mitigate the recurring floods in the city centre. The contractor for the project is MMC Engineering Berhad – Gamuda Joint Venture (MMCEG-Gamuda JV).

The project involves the contruction of a 11.5 km tunnel under existing roads whose main function will be to prevent stormwater from entering the city centre.

The SMART project is expected to be completed in the second half of 2005.



Road Diversion at KL-Seremban Highway

KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL XTREME WATER SPORTS 2003

The inaugural Kuala Lumpur International Xtreme Watersports 2003 received tremendous support from the city public who came in the thousands to be a part of this exciting watersports carnival. As a closing finale of the National Water Festival, the event succeeded in bringing the exhilarating water-sports fever closer to the Malaysian public.

The event which was launched officially by The Mayor of Kuala Lumpur - Datuk Mohmad Shaid Bin Mohd. Taufek was held over two days, from 10 March to 11 March 2003. Approximately 128 participants competed in the 3 sporting activities at Taman Tasik Metropolitan, Kepong, witnessed by a crowd exceeding 15,000. Amidst the scorching sun and serene waters, the participants, comprising of both international and local talents pitted their skills in the Jet Ski Competition, Wakeboarding Challenge and the Beach Volleyball Tournament.

The countries that participated in this event are Belgium, Brunei, China, England, France, Holland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, USA and host country Malaysia.

The mayor, Datuk Mohmad Shaid (left) unveiling the KL Internatiional Xtreme Water Sports 2003 at press conference. Behind the mayor is Encik Wan Mohd. Ghazali bin Wan Mohd. Noor Deputy Director, Culture, Tourism & Sports Division, DBKL and Raymond Siva, Managing Director Asian Media Network Sdn. Bhd. - Photo AMN

Among the highlights was wakeboarder Jumruang "Lotta" Bunyalo, winner of the recent Asian X-Games gold medal who enthralled the crowd with some of the best stunts involving sensational somersaults and twists, ever seen in Kuala Lumpur. Bunyalo, from Thailand shared the limelight with other participants from France, China, Singapore, Holland, England and Malaysia.

Dato' Mohd Azmi Bin Razak, Secretary General, Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Malaysia awarded the Kuala Lumpur International Xtreme Watersports 2003 trophy to all winners.

The prize monies from the Celebrities Challenge, totaling RM2,000 will be donated to the Malaysian International Peace Fund for victims of war in Iraq.The event is also meant to complement the finale of the National Water Festival month, and enhance KL as the preferred "Sports City."

The Kuala Lumpur International Xtreme Watersports 2003 aims to boost the watersports sector that has been largely neglected. The wide publicity following the event will aid in the promotion of watersports in order to build a wider and stronger platform to support watersports-based tourism in Malaysia and particularly in Kuala Lumpur. The organization of this event is highly commendable to ensure the local development of watersports in the city.

Currently there is a handful of watersports activity in Malaysia which if given the extra publicity and financial aid, would firmly place Malaysia as the preferred regional hub for watersports-based tourism. Among these sports are Jet Ski, Canoe and Kayak, Windsurfing, Wakeboarding and Sailing. Beach Volleyball is a recent addition to these. The many lakes and mining ponds, besides being converted into recreation areas and parks will soon see water sports activity taking place. City Hall will develop the lakes into venues for the promotion of aqua, marine and water based events. The commercial and business potential will be exploited. International inland water sports will be given emphasis and particularly in Kuala Lumpur.

The Kuala Lumpur International Xtreme Watersports 2003 jointly organised by City Hall Kuala Lumpur and Asian Media Network Sdn Bhd showcased thrilling watersports' skills and excellent sportsmanship amongst participants.

RESULTS OF THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL X-TREME WATERSPORTS 2003 EVENT

JET SKI

a. 800cc	-	Chia Boon Kit (Malaysia)
b. 1200cc	-	Lim Thean Seng (Malaysia)

WAKEBOARD

a. Open	-	Jumruang Bunyalo (Thailand)
b. Women	-	Ary Yap (Malaysia)
c. Novice	-	Song Eu Jin (Malaysia)
d. Intermediate	-	Johnson Hui (China)
e. Advanced	-	Tengku Shariar Tengku Ghafar (Malaysia)

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

a. Men's Open	-	Shah Alam City Council Team B
b. Men's Junior Open	-	KL Youth Team A
c. Women's Open	-	Universiti Putra Malaysia Team A
d. Women's Junior Open	-	PGS Gift.com Team A

The winners of the Open Wakeboarding Challenge category - Photo AMN

CITY HALL'S SUPPORT FOR SPORTS

In line with its vision of making Kuala Lumpur a Sports City, City Hall has been very supportive and encourages the development and growth of a variety of sports and games in the city. From 1999 until 2003, thirty three Associations including the Kuala Lumpur Football Association (KLFA) have received financial aid amounting to RM6, 259,380. For the year 2003, RM1, 010,932 was disbursed of which RM500,000 was for the KLFA.

Such financial support is vital to help the Sports Associations implement training programmes, hold championship meetings and participate in championship competitions at National and League levels.

The financial support rendered is a token of goodwill and varies from Association to Association and from year to year based on their performance, track record and achievement. The criteria also includes their training programmes and championships held in the past and currently.

The yearly disbursements vary from RM2,000 to RM1,000,000 the biggest recipient being the Kuala Lumpur Football Association(KLFA). The majority of the Associations receive less than RM30,000.

However, the current economic situation has compelled City Hall to be more prudent in its expenditures and to meet the ever increasing request for financial aid from many sports/games organizations and other bodies.

City Hall's responsibility to sports/games organizations to enable them to function in times of economic downturn will continue but will be based on their track record and performance.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY COMPLEX

A Women's Community Complex costing approximately RM4 million has been built by City Hall in Desa Pandan to house the City Women's Corp which was formed in October 1990.

The Complex will be a focal point for the city's multiracial women to meet and carry out economic and social activities in a multidimensional approach.

The Complex was officially declared open by the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Mohmad Shaid bin Mohd Taufek 'a strong advocate and supporter of women's development'.

The ceremony on 22 March 2003 was witnessed by The Honourable Datuk Seri Drs Suleiman Mohamed, Deputy Minister of Health, who is also the patron of the City Women's corp, Chairman and Committee members of the City Women's Corp.

The Complex has space for tuition classes, computer literacy (sponsored by the Al Bukhary Foundation) cooking and handicraft, health clinic, legal counseling, nursery, gymnasium, religious classes and a meeting hall for about 200.

The City Women's Corp will manage and conduct various social and economic activities for women and children. While mothers are active and busy with their own activities, the children too will be busy at the library, tuition classes or learning how to use the computers.

Women and children irrespective of their social economic status can mix freely and depend on one another for help and support.

City Hall will look into the expansion of the Women's Community Complex to other parts of Kuala Lumpur for the City's 700,000 odd women.

The mayor, Datuk Mohmad Shaid, declaring open the complex. - Photo City News

ENTERTAINMENT LICENCES DECLINE

There was a drop in the issuance of entertainment and game centre licences in 2003 compared to the year 2002.

In 2002, 326 licences were issued and in 2003 (until March) only 267 were issued. This is a drop of 59 licences.

Two licences/permits were withdrawn due to non adherence, abuse or violation of the conditions imposed. Both of the centres were discos.

The decline in licences registered is due to closure of premises or applications to wind up operations by licence holders.

City Hall and other enforcement agencies have been coming down hard on premises and centres that have constantly violated the conditions imposed on them. Some operated beyond the hours permitted, permitted underaged children, conducted vice activities, had patrons high on drugs, employed foreign illegal workers or violated gaming and liquor laws and regulations.