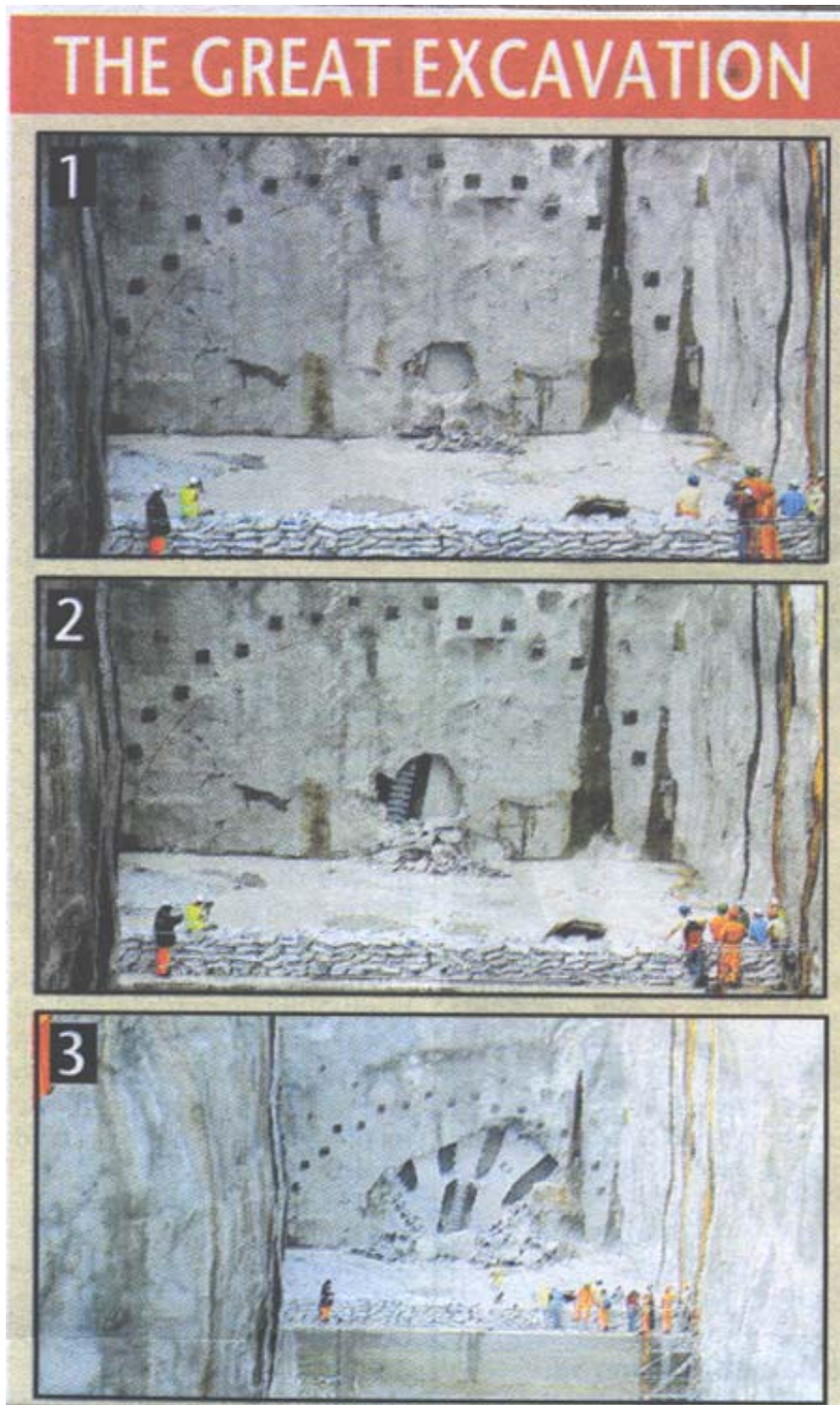




## Breaking through

It looks like a scene from a sci-fi movie about monster machines, except that it's happening right here beneath the streets of Kuala Lumpur. Read about this earth-shaking project on Page 6. — Picture by Amirudin Sahib

12 December 2004, The NST – Prime News / SMART





**BREAKING OUT:** (from top) *Tuah*, the giant boring machine, emerging through the ground yesterday to an excited reception from workers at the site. — Pictures by Amirudin Saib

## First phase of drilling ends

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat.** — *Tuah*, the first tunnel-boring machine for the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) flood diversion project, has completed the first phase of drilling work along a 734-metre stretch of the north junction box in Jalan Cochrane.

Drainage and Irrigation Department director-general Datuk Keizrul Abdullah said it was an important milestone considering that the north junction box was where the flood tunnel would meet the tunnel for traffic.

*Tuah*, which is 70m in

diameter and weighs 2,500 tonnes, began work in July, Keizrul said after witnessing the drilling work in Jalan Cochrane today.

Present was Datuk Dr Ahmad Zaidee Laidin, director of SMART Sdn Bhd, the company which is undertaking the project.

Keizrul said the second phase of the drilling work covering 4.493km northwards was expected to start in a month.

The second machine, *Gemilang*, which started drilling work southwards in early September, has drilled 350m of the tunnel.

— Bernama