

# 'No risk of drowning'

Excerpts from interview with  
Department of Irrigation and Drainage  
director-general Datuk Keizrul Abdullah

**QUESTION:** Is there risk of the floodwater overflowing from the drain at the bottom of the tunnel into the double-decked highway and drowning the road users?

**Answer:** There's no risk of drowning at all. A series of water-tight gates are installed at both ends of the tunnel to prevent floodwater in the drain from seeping into the double-decked highway.

While flood gates at the highway remain closed, the drain in the tunnel is able to carry 750,000m<sup>3</sup> of floodwater, which is equivalent to the volume of water in 300 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

The authorities will not open the gates unless they have thoroughly checked and confirmed that all road users have evacuated the tunnel.

**Q:** How much time is there for road users to drive out of tunnel before the authorities open the water gates to allow flood water from the Klang River to engulf the whole tunnel?

**A:** It only takes three minutes for cars to drive out of the tunnel, assuming that traffic is flowing at 60km/hour. The control room receives early flood detection whenever it rains, as early as 30 minutes. Before flood water from the Klang River flows into the drain in the tunnel, it will flow into the Kampung Berembang retention pond and will take about 45 minutes to fill it up. Therefore, the control room has more than an hour to divert traffic from entering the tunnel and evacuate the cars in the tunnel before they decide to open the series of water gates.

**Q:** How many times in a year does Kuala Lumpur experience heavy thunderstorms which would be serious enough to necessitate the opening of the flood gates?

**A:** At the most, three times a year.

**Q:** Is there a possibility of the tunnel collapsing?

**A:** No, a circular tunnel is proven to be the most stable design in distributing pressure evenly in all direction.

**Q:** What if an accident happens inside the tunnel?

**A:** There is 24-hour CCTV (closed circuit televisions) surveillance. Authorities at the control room will inform the Rescue and Fire Department and the Police at the touch of a button and traffic diversion announcements will be amplified in the tunnel and broadcast to all radio stations.

**Q:** How many CCTVs are there in the tunnel?

**A:** There are 60 CCTVs placed strategically throughout the tunnel. There are no blind spots.

**Q:** Are there risks of road users suffocating from car fumes and accident smoke?

**A:** There are 12 super-jet fans installed in the four ventilation shafts throughout the tunnel. In addition to the one-directional flow of traffic that naturally ventilates the tunnel, fresh air is constantly pumped into the tunnel and bad air extracted through dedicated ventilation shafts.

**Q:** Are there elevator facilities inside the tunnel?

**A:** Yes, in case of an accident, the disabled, those who are bound on the stretcher and the elderly can escape using the elevators.

**Q:** If my car crashes inside the tunnel, can I use my handphone to call for help?

**A:** Yes, a dedicated broadcast cable has been fitted throughout the tunnel to facilitate wireless transmission at all times.

**Q:** Is it true that only passenger cars can use the tunnel? Why?

**A:** Yes, due to height limitation in the tunnel, lorries and buses are not allowed into the tunnel. Motorcycles are also not allowed to use the highway in the tunnel because we want to eliminate the danger of them weaving between passenger cars. We also do not want motorcycles to seek shelter in the tunnel, obstruct traffic and heighten the risk of accidents.