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# 'Smart' won't solve all flood problems

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (Smart) project cannot solve all the flood problems in the federal capital, Kuala Lumpur Flood Mitigation Project director K.J. Abraham said yesterday.

"We don't want to promise what Smart cannot do. This is our city, everyone needs to take care of it as well," he said.

Answering questions at a briefing on the project's progress for a KL Federal Territory MCA delegation, led by its chairman, Datuk Tan Chai Ho, Abraham said: "If an integrated approach is not taken with the management of urban drainage, then floods will continue to hit the city. The Smart tunnel is to mitigate floods in the city."

Work on the Smart project, which started on Jan 1, 2003, is expected to be completed in June.

The RM1.935 billion project starts at the catchment areas of Kampung Berembang (behind Gleneagles in Ampang) in the city centre and ends at the Taman Desa Water Park, where storm water is released into Sungai Kerayong.

The 9.7km-long tunnel also holds a 3km dual-purpose bypass tunnel running from Jalan Pudu to Jalan

Chan Sow Lin which accommodates a double-decker motorway and below that, a water underpass to channel the water to Taman Desa.

Abraham said the tunnel was 91% complete.

It it features a storage of up to three million cubic metres of water for release at an appropriate time.

"The project is capable

of holding major floods that may strike once in 100 years and we expect to run Mode 3 operations (closing the motorway to store and discharge flood waters) two to three times a year," he said.

"There will be enough time for the concessionaire to alert the motorway and clear the traffic before it is shut

and the system will not run until traffic is 100% cleared from the tunnel," he said.

Tan urged the public, especially residents, to stop "throwing rubbish which causes blockage of drainage systems and may lead to urban flooding"

## Relief for flood victims

**BATU PAHAT:** The sunny weather over the past few days and the receding flood waters have brought a sigh of relief to those displaced by the floods.

A check by Bernama at Sri Medan, Parit Sulong and Senggerang, near here, showed that more victims have returned home over the weekend.

Johor had been hit by two major floods, one at the end of December and another in early January, and a possible third wave

had been predicted last weekend but it did not materialise.

At the height of the floods, more than 100,000 people were displaced. While the majority have returned home, some 33,000 were still sheltering at flood relief centres on Sunday because the flood waters had yet to recede in their areas.

If the weather pattern continues, more victims are expected to return home in the next few days.