

Curbing overflow

There are plans to divert water from Sg Bunus to Sg Gombak following the flash floods as the former is unable to contain high volume of water. >2&3



Balancing act

Even in moments of disaster, children manage to find small pleasures. A young boy spotted crossing the road by jumping on the bollards in front of the National Library during the flash floods in Jalan Tun Razak.
— AZHAR MAHFOF/
The Star



Trapped: Motorcyclists waiting for the flood water to recede before they can continue their journey.

Water diversion

DID to carry out flood mitigation measures for Sg Bunus

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KUALA LUMPUR City Hall deputy director-general (socio-economy development) Datuk Amin Nordin Abd Aziz said flood mitigation measures are being carried out by Federal Territory Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) for Sungai Bunus.

According to Amin, DID will be upgrading the Air Leleh pond in

Setapak Jaya to contain more water.

"DID has plans to divert the water from Sg Bunus (from the Menara TH Selborn) to Sungai Gombak. This is to reduce the volume of water in Sg Bunus, otherwise we have to widen the river, which will cost a lot of money.

"Sg Bunus was unable to contain the high volume of water as a result of the heavy rain, which is why the floods occurred. However, the SMART Tunnel did help in mitigat-

ing the situation especially around the Masjid India area," he said.

He added that DBKL will be updating the situation via the ITIS system as well as disseminating the latest information from the disaster centre.

"As soon as we receive information from the Meteorological Department, we will take the necessary action.

"We have also instructed Alam Flora to clean and clear all the drains

to allow smooth flow of water," he said.

Thousands of motorists heading home after work were stuck in the city after flash floods occurred on Tuesday.

The downpour had caused Sg Bunus to overflow and floodwaters measuring as high as one metre cut off traffic flow along Jalan Tun Razak in front of the National Library.

This contributed to a massive traffic congestion.



Not his day: A taxi driver trying his best to move his stranded vehicle.



Too much: Sg Bunus was not able to contain the high volume of water hence the flash floods.

Softening the blow

SMART tunnel helps in reducing impact of flash flood



Not a pretty sight: Motorists trying to wade through the flood water in Jalan Tun Razak in front of the National Library.

By **BAVANI M** and **JASTIN AHMAD TARMIZI**
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KUALA LUMPUR would have experienced a much worse flood compared with what happened on Tuesday evening if the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel system had not diverted water into its SMART water catchment areas in Sg Berembang and Taman Desa pond as well as its tunnel storage system.

According to a SMART spokesman, 1.2 million mcm (million cubic metre) was diverted into its respective ponds during the downpour which occurred on Tuesday afternoon.

"The downpour was so intense that it caused Sg Bunus to overflow causing floods

in areas around Jalan Tun Razak, some parts of Jalan Semarak and Kampung Baru," the spokesman said.

"Even Sg Gombak and Sg Klang, which are part of the SMART project's storm water diversion, were overflowing – that was how heavy the rain was," he said.

"We closed the tunnel for three hours to divert the water and that's why areas like Masjid Jamek, Leboh Ampang, and Dataran Merdeka were spared," added the spokesman.

He said Sg Bunus was not part of SMART's mitigation area.

Tuesday afternoon's heavy rain caused a massive gridlock in Jalan Tun Razak, Jalan Semarak, and Kampung Baru.

"Since the SMART tunnel was opened in 2007, there has not been a serious flood like what happened on Tuesday," he said.

Thousands of motorists heading home after work were stuck in traffic in many parts of the city due to the flash floods.

A group of children and three teachers had to be rescued from a nursery in Jalan Semarak.

When contacted, Federal Territory Kuala Lumpur Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) director Mat Rahim Ismail said the rainfall recorded at the upstream of Sungai Bunus in the Air Panas (Setapak) rain gauge station was much higher than usual at 130mm per hour.

"Sg Bunus definitely cannot contain that much of rainwater," he said, adding that the

manageable level for rainfall for the river was 80 cubic meters per second.

"Usually the rainfall recorded is within 30-40mm per hour. However, on Tuesday afternoon, the rain was extremely heavy which caused the river to overflow causing the flash flood on Jalan Tun Razak," he added.

However, Mat Rahim said they had long-term plans to upgrade Sg Bunus and they had already requested for funds from the Government.

"We have already called for a tender for two ponds and we will call for the third one soon," he said.

He added that they also planned to construct a diversion from Sg Bunus to Sg Gombak.



Unnerving experience: A group of students from the TM Multimedia College in Jalan Semarak were evacuated on boats to safety by the Fire and Rescue Department personnel.