

Excessive rainfall may cause closure of SMART

PETALING JAYA: The Storm Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) will be closed for public use during the inter-monsoon season if the water flow at the confluence of Ampang and Klang rivers reaches the velocity of 150 cubic meters per second.

SMART Stormwater Control Centre director Nor Hisham Mohd Ghazali said there was a possibility that the tunnel would be closed due to excessive rainfall.

"Members of the public will be informed an hour before the tunnel is closed and they are advised to look for alternative routes," he said.

The flood hotspots in the Klang Valley included Salak South, some areas in Ampang, Jalan Dang Wangi and the city centre, he said.

"People should stop throwing rubbish indiscriminately as flash floods will occur when drains are clogged.

"Residents, too, should clear up their drains at home and in their neighbourhoods," he said.

Hydrology and Water Resources Division director Datuk Hanapi Mohamad Noor said heavy rain was expected during the inter-monsoon season but it was not known exactly when as forecasts could only be done three to four days ahead.

The most flood-prone areas would be Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and Perak, he said, adding that the floods in the Klang Valley would be caused by convectional rainfall.

On the long-term flood control plan, the Department of Irrigation and Drainage director-general Datuk Ahmad Husaini Sulaiman said flood mitigation projects were being implemented in major river basins such as Sungai Muar, Sungai Muda, Sungai Kedah, Sungai Kelantan, Sungai Linggi and Sungai Kerian.

Structural flood mitigation measures included widening and deepening rivers and constructing bunds, diversions and detention ponds, he said.

"Flood forecasting and warning system will also be used to reduce the adverse effects of flooding such as loss of human lives and property," he said.