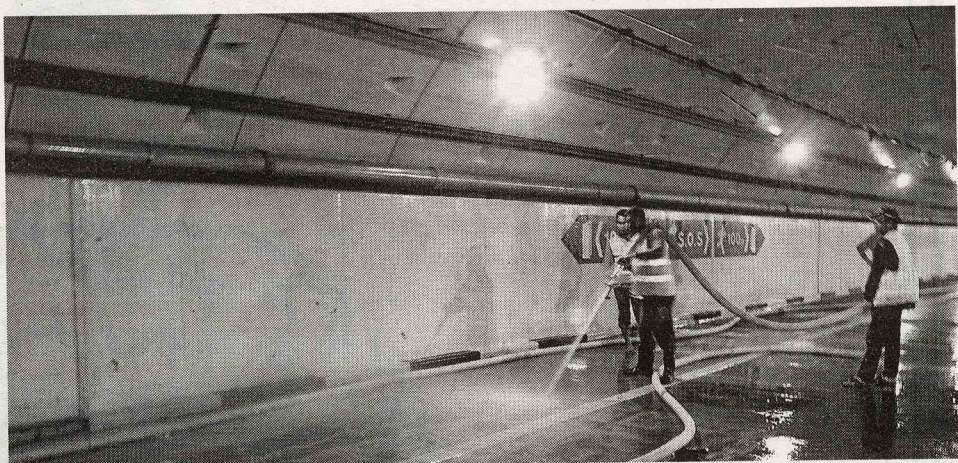


'Projects helped to cut flood risk'



The Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel is one of the flood mitigation projects for the Klang Valley. Pic by Sarah Sulaiman

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS:

Various measures to curb flash floods

THE government has implemented several flood mitigation projects which include the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART), which was completed in 2007.

Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Tan Sri Joseph Kurup told the Dewan Rakyat that these flood mitigation plans had reduced flood incidences in the Klang Valley by 20 per cent.

He said the projects were implemented by the ministry through the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID).

"Under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, DID had implemented nine flood mitigation projects which involved RM427.7 million. One of the projects included Sungai Damansara, which cost RM359.8 million."

Kurup was responding to a question by Dr Che Rosli Che Mat (Pas-Hulu Langat) on the

status of flood mitigation plans that have been carried out since 2008.

He said DID also carried out maintenance works three times a year to ensure the smooth flow of water from the rivers to reduce the risk of floods. Kurup also advised the state governments and the local councils to work together with the Federal Government in managing flood-prone areas.

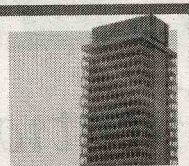
"The local councils play a very important role in identifying areas and drains that could potentially cause floods, the internal irrigation system also has to be maintained to ensure that the water flow is not blocked."

It was reported earlier this year that 32 flood mitigation projects were being implemented throughout the country at a cost of RM880 million.

The report quoting Kurup, stated that the projects were undertaken by the DID and expected to

be completed by year end.

Kurup said to coordinate the projects, six flood hazard maps had been completed for six rivers — Sungai Muar, Sungai Kulai, Sungai Kinta, Sungai Selangor, Sungai Muda and Sungai Kedah.



AT THE DEWAN RAKYAT YESTERDAY