



Motorists caught in a jam on a highway following the closure of SMART on Monday. Pic by Aizuddin Saad

Tunnel closed to avert flash floods

EXCESSIVE RAINFALL: SMART on alert as bad weather expected daily

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THE Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) was closed to traffic on Monday evening to avoid major flash floods in the city.

SMART Stormwater Control Centre director Nor Hisham Mohd Ghazali said the closure was after excessive rainfall at the water catchment areas in Kampung Berembang, Hulu Sungai Kelang and Sungai Ampang that resulted in the water to rise to the danger level.

"The water at Sungai Klang and Sungai Ampang meeting point rose to 39.2m. We had to divert the flow to the tunnel to avert flash floods particularly in Jalan Masjid Jamek and Jalan

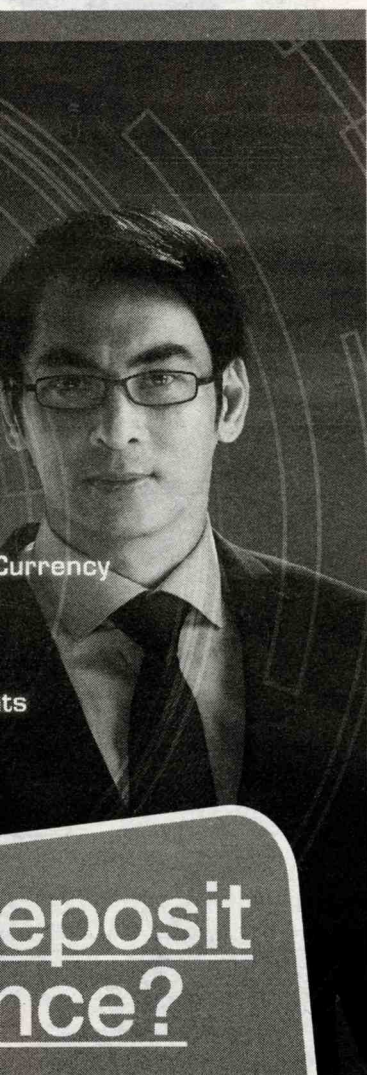
Tun Perak," he said, adding that Monday's downpour was the worst this month.

The tunnel was closed to traffic at 4.20pm. He said they were on high alert as it was predicted to rain almost every evening.

SMART chief operating officer Mohd Fuad Kamal Ariffin said they planned to reopen the tunnel to traffic tomorrow, adding that an announcement would be made today, pending final inspection and approval from the Malaysian Highway Authority.

"The decision also hinges on the weather condition. If another downpour like the one on Monday occurs, we have to close the tunnel to traffic again."

The cost of cleaning the tunnel is estimated at RM300,000, with repair and restoration works at RM500,000 each time the tunnel is shut.



Currency

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Deposit
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Deposit Malaysia (PIDM), the Government deposits held in banks are protected up to deposits eligible for PIDM protection include: