

UN praises Malaysia's novel SMART Tunnel

PETALING JAYA: The SMART Tunnel has been described as one of the most innovative projects in the world for an urban issue by the United Nations, says Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan.

He said the project was cited as an example by United Nations-Habitat executive director Dr Joan Clos as its implementation had effectively reduced traffic congestion in Kuala Lumpur.

At the same time, it serves as a stormwater bypass tunnel to alleviate flooding problems.

Abdul Rahman said the recognition served as an acknowledgment of the Government's efforts to resolve urban problems.

"In fact, the Government has a lot of plans for people in urban areas, including meeting their housing and infrastructure needs,"

he said in an interview yesterday.

The minister is in Nairobi, Kenya, to attend a meeting of the Governing Council of the UN Human Settlements programme.

While Malaysia is not a council member, the country has been invited to attend the meeting in its capacity as host of the 9th World Urban Forum in 2018.

SMART (stormwater management and road tunnel) is a 4km storm drainage and road structure. In 2011, it received the UN Habitat Scroll of Honour Award for its innovative and unique management of stormwater and peak hour traffic.

Abdul Rahman, during his bilateral meeting with Dr Clos, expressed Malaysia's commitment in hosting a successful forum and pointed out that Kuala Lumpur would be the only other city in Asia after Nanjing, China, to do so.



Temporary closure: The SMART tunnel being closed to traffic following a storm in Kuala Lumpur.