



Work in progress

Upgrading work at Sungai Kerayong in Sg Reel, Kuala Lumpur, being carried out. - By Sam Tham/The Star

M2

Builder: No proper access to Sungei Kerayong

Difficult for machinery to go into the area

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Photos by **SAM THAM**

THE delay in the upgrading work in Sungei Kerayong, Sg Besi, Kuala Lumpur, is attributed to the limited access into the area.

A representative of the contractor carrying out the Sg Kerayong work said a special access route was needed for the machinery.

"On one side there is the New Pantai Expressway and on the other is a high-rise building.

"The machinery has to go in and out with the materials into the area but is facing constraints. This was not anticipated initially," he said.

He said the work was supposed to be completed by the middle of this year.

Syarikat Mengurus Air Banjir dan Terowong Sdn Bhd (SMART) is urging the contractor to expedite the river upgrading work.

SMART Tunnel general manager Mohd Fuad Kamal Ariffin said the tunnel's reopening time could be reduced if the work was completed.

"It was supposed to be completed together with the SMART Tunnel but based on the progress, we are not sure if it can be completed within this year.

"The upgrading includes the widening and deepening of the river. The tunnel system is designed to discharge water into the river.

"The Klang Valley flood mitigation project cannot work if some aspects of it are not completed. The SMART



Wide display:
The SMART Tunnel control room

tunnel is only a part of it.

"Our concern is that during a downpour, the tunnel cannot be opened early. The motorists expectation of SMART is high.

"We have been alerted by the Drainage and Irrigation Department and the Meteorological Department to be on stand-by in case of a downpour.

"We are conducting tests of the gates weekly.

"Since the tunnel started operating, it has been closed 27 times to divert flood waters," he said.

He also said the volume of cars

using the motorway had increased to 33,000.

The SMART Tunnel deals with flash floods caused by river overflowing. It caters to the upper Sungei Klang and Sungei Ampang catchments, diverting 90% of the volume of flood waters from Sungei Klang.

The tunnel operates at Kampung Berembang in Ampang to ensure that the Sungei Klang water level is maintained below the danger level so that the river does not overflow into the city centre, especially Jalan Tun Perak and Masjid India areas.



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**Still In
progress:**
Upgrading
work being
carried out
in Sungei
Kerayong.