

# Govt considers underground tunnels

**PUTRAJAYA:** The government is studying the best way to overcome the problem of flash floods in Kuala Lumpur, including building underground tunnels to quickly channel water from flood-prone areas to the rivers, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The prime minister said the move had already started with the construction of "smart" tunnels near the Sungai Besi airport.

"We know the problem. We must spend a lot of money to dig the river again to deepen it

and there is a lot more that we have to do to overcome this problem," he said after chairing a meeting of mentris besar and chief ministers here.

Mahathir was asked about the government's long-term plans to overcome the problem of flash floods in Kuala Lumpur.

Flash floods hit the capital and its surrounding areas during a three-hour downpour on Tuesday, crippling the traffic and public transport system. The flood waters receded at about 9pm.

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