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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **JOHNSON & NICHOLSON (M) SDN BHD** [MY/MY]; No.7, Wisma Johnson & Nicholson, Jalan 4/93, Taman Miharja, 55200 Kuala Lumpur (MY).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ALAN, Chew, Hong, Meng** [MY/MY]; C18-2, Abadi Villa, Taman Abadi Indah, 58100 Kuala Lumpur (MY). **CHEW, Joon, Yip** [MY/MY]; C18-2, Abadi Villa, Taman Abadi Indah, 58100 Kuala Lumpur (MY).

(74) Agent: **LOK, Choon, Hong**; Suite 6.03, 6th Floor, Wisma Mirama, Jalan Wisma Putra, 50460 Kuala Lumpur (MY).

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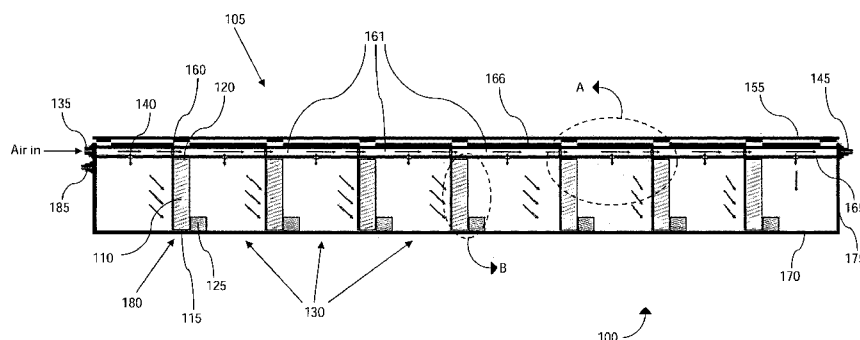


Fig. 1a

(57) Abstract: An inflatable, buoyant and portable platform (100), particularly for emergency use, such as during a plane crash or a sinking ship is disclosed. The platform (100) comprises a hollow inflatable enclosure (105) having a top surface (165) and a bottom surface (170), both the surfaces (165,170) being peripherally joined by a flexible curtain (175). A support means (180) is provided inside the enclosure (105), that adapts an extended form when the enclosure (105) is inflated, for enhancing rigidity of the enclosure (105) when inflated and loaded. The support means (180) adapts a retracted form when the enclosure (105) is deflated. The enclosure (105) is inflatable through an inflating valve (135) by an external source of compressed gas and deflatable through a deflating valve (145) and an exit valve (185), the valves (135,145,185) being provided on the enclosure (105). The platform (100) is also connectable to one another, forming a platform of different shapes and sizes.