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What went wrong at 700 sites, asks Fong

PASIR MAS: The Human Resources Ministry wants answers from the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) on the 700 cases of negligence at project sites reported since 2003.

Datuk Seri Dr Fong Chan Onn said his ministry would meet with the board this week to ascertain what was wrong in the industry.

“We want to know the outcome of their investigations as CIDB has the power to issue stop-work orders and take action against errant contractors. We are serious as we do not want a repeat of the tragedy which happened in Sri Hartamas (Kuala Lumpur) last week,” he said yesterday after chairing the Kelantan MCA liaison committee meeting here. He said this when responding to media reports about the 700 cases, which included 150 high-profile incidents.

In Kuala Lumpur, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health has suggested that contractors be required to furnish a safety policy statement when bidding for construction jobs.

Its chairman, Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, said contractors should provide hazard identifications, risk assessments and risk-control plans, as well as information on the experience of their employees and safety training, Bernama reported.