

MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release

GOMBAK BUILDING COLLAPSE: CIDB REMINDS CONTRACTORS TO PUT SAFETY FIRST

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 May, 2019 - The Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB) today reminded contractors again to put safety first in their construction projects in light of the recent collapse of the building still under construction in Gombak.

Recently, two Indonesian workers were killed at a construction site near the Gombak LRT Terminal in Taman Melati. Their bodies were discovered under a pile of rubble, and they were believed to have been crushed by falling iron beams. Three other workers were also reportedly injured as a result of the incident.

Commenting on the accident, CIDB Chief Executive, Dato' Ir. Ahmad 'Asri Abdul Hamid emphasised that safety is paramount in construction.

“This incident again highlights why improving safety in the Malaysian construction industry is crucial. The industry has recorded a worrying increase of construction site deaths over the past few years despite the targeted reduction set by the Construction industry Transformation Plan 2016-2020 (CITP). This shows that the industry still has a long way to go in terms of instilling a culture of safety at construction sites,” said Dato' Ir. Ahmad 'Asri.

CIDB is investigating the case under the CIDB Act (Act 520). According to section 34B(1)(c) of the CIDB Act, contractors are responsible for ensuring the safety of the building and of construction works, both during and after the construction phase.

Meanwhile Section 34D(1) of the CIDB Act (Act 520), states that any contractor who breaches his duty under paragraph 34B(1)(c), and which breach results in death, shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding RM500,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both.

“As part of CIDB’s efforts to ensure contractors and site managers fulfill their responsibility to have sufficient safety measures for construction work, CIDB

conducts routine Act 520 enforcement inspections across the nation,” said Dato' Ir. Ahmad 'Asri.

Previously, Tuck Sin Engineering & Construction Sdn Bhd, a contractor for the KL Eco City Link Bridge project was fined RM250,000 for breaching Section 34D(1) of the CIDB Act. In the incident, a worker died as a result of the collapsed pedestrian bridge. Meanwhile, Justra Sdn Bhd, a contractor for a Mydin hypermarket project in Alor Gajah was fined RM100,000 by the Sessions Court for the offence of failing to ensure safety during construction; causing the death of three foreign workers in June 2014.

In 2018, CIDB had conducted a total of 3,401 construction site/premise inspections, 798 construction material inspections, and opened 1,068 investigation papers. Last year, a total of 1,053 compounds were issued to 298 companies and 755 construction personnel for various offences, totaling RM 2.8 million.

For more information, please visit: www.cidb.gov.my

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About CIDB Malaysia

The Construction Industry Development Board was established under the Construction Industry Development Act (Act 520) to develop the Capacity and Capability of the Construction Industry through Enhancement of Quality and Productivity by Placing Great Emphasis on Professionalism, Innovation and Knowledge in the Endeavour to Improve the Quality of Life.
