

MEDIA RELEASE

OVER 5,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS BENEFITED FROM CENTRALISED LABOUR QUARTERS SINCE 2018

CIDB's CLQ in line with Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act (Act 446)

SHAH ALAM, 24 September, 2019 - The Construction Labour Exchange Centre Berhad (CLAB), a **Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB) subsidiary**, has provided accommodation at its Centralised Labour Quarters (CLQ) for about 5,151 construction workers since its launch in 2018 up until July 2019.

The CLQ, which is located in Shah Alam, underwent renovation works following an initial investment of RM 1 million by CIDB. It was launched in January 2018 in line with the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act (Act 446), and the Malaysian Standard for Temporary Construction Site Workers' Amenities and Accommodation (MS2593:2015).

In fact, CIDB has been working closely with the Ministry of Human Resources to enhance safety and health for workers, which has resulted in amendments to Act 446 that was passed in Parliament in July 2019. The amended Act 446 makes it compulsory for employers in all industrial sectors, including construction, to provide accommodation for workers that meets minimum standards as outlined in the Act.

"All construction industry players must embrace and practice a culture that prioritises safety for the sector to be truly world-class. Initiatives such as the CLAB CLQ is a significant step forward in providing adequate accommodation for workers in the Malaysian construction industry. The industry as a whole must step forward and take up the challenge in improving safety and health standards for construction workers as we work towards transforming the sector," said **Tuan Baru Bian, the Minister of Works**, during a working visit to the CLAB CLQ today.

The introduction of the CLQ is a significant milestone under the Construction Industry Transformation Programme's 2016 – 2020 (CITP), the national blueprint to transform the Malaysian construction industry to be highly productive, environmentally sustainable, with globally competitive players while focused on safety and quality standards.

“Occupational safety and health directly impact the welfare and well-being of employees. Indirectly, it will also bring about positive change on the overall health and safety of our community, the economy and environment of our country in the longer term. Furthermore, organisations with the best occupational safety and health practices are most often more productive, and they are the most economically, socially and environmentally friendly businesses. As such, healthy conditions, including accommodation, will positively influence the construction industry at large,” **Tuan Baru Bian** explained further.

Covering an area of 5.5 acres, the CLQ has six blocks consisting 144 rooms with the capacity to house up to 864 workers. Its facilities are on par with CLQs abroad in Singapore, United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong. The CLQ is a gated-and-guarded accommodation, complete with amenities and facilities for the workers' safety and comfort. It includes a surau, cafeteria, kitchen, recreational areas and medical facilities.

“We are committed to providing the industry, especially smaller contractors, with the option of economical, safe, clean and conducive living quarters for their workers through CLAB's CLQ. Moreover, employers do not need to bear the additional burden of operating the quarters as it is wholly managed by CLAB,” said **Encik Abdul Rafik Abdul Rajis**, Chief Executive Officer of CLAB.

Since its launch in January 2018, CLAB CLQ has opened its doors to workers from 11 countries including Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines, Bangladesh and China. In addition to the Sungai Buloh CLQ, CLAB also collaborates with other CLQ Operators in Johor and Penang.

CLAB was established in 2003 by CIDB pursuant to the decision by the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Workers or *Jawatankuasa Kabinet Mengenai Pengambilan Pekerja Asing* (JKK-PA) to bring in and redistribute foreign workers for companies in Malaysia. In 2009, the Government mandated CLAB to manage all requests from construction companies that require a maximum of 100 foreign construction workers for their projects. As of July 2019, CLAB has successfully managed 191,000 construction workers for placement in the construction industry.

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.

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