

Housing project ordered to stop

Site operator committed two offences, says CIDB

THE Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) has ordered a construction site to cease operations for misusing A-frame scaffolding and hiring unaccredited workers.

CIDB Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya director Datuk Dr Gerald Sundaraj said the misuse of such scaffolding and hiring workers without certification were compoundable offences under the Construction Industry Development Board Act 1994.

"Under the CIDB Act, these are compoundable offences of between RM10,000 and RM500,000.

"Construction materials were found on the scaffolding. Such structures can only be used to provide access for workers," he said.

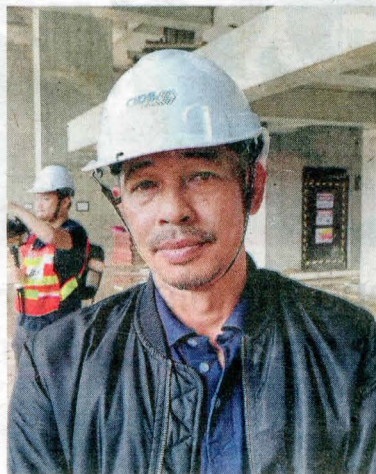
Gerald said six supervisors and 40 labourers were not formally accredited for the jobs they were hired for.

"This put their safety at risk," he said, reminding site operators to ensure workers were certified to do the jobs they were tasked with.

"The site has been ordered to cease operations until corrective action is taken. This can take up to a month," he elaborated.

Gerald added that CIDB would step up random checks at construction sites in the city to ensure compliance with the law.

An integrated operation led by CIDB involving Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), Occupational Safety and Health Department, Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation and the police also found that no approval

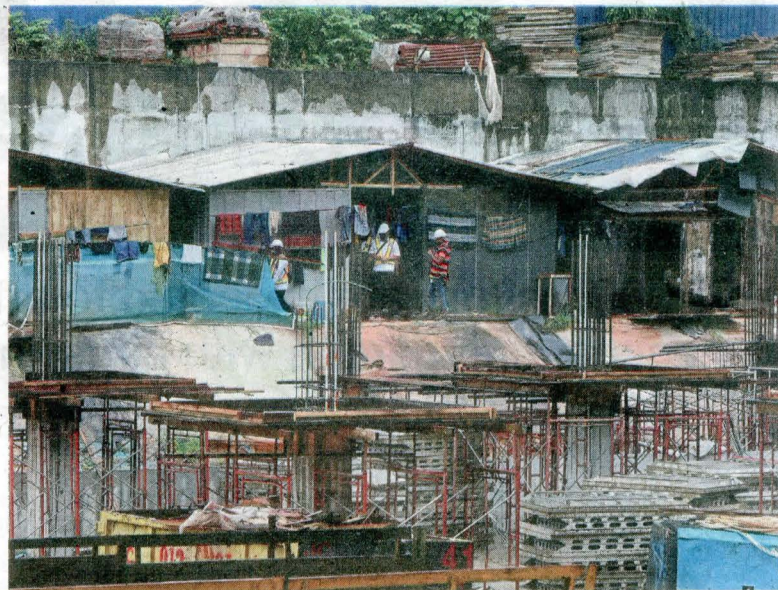


Che Mohd Rokman says approval is needed for the workers' quarters and salaries must be banked in.

had been obtained for the workers' quarters.

A worker speaking to *StarMetro* on condition of anonymity said their living environment was not ideal but they had no choice.

"We work six days a week from 8am to 7pm and are paid RM75 per day," he said, adding that workers were off on Sundays and public holidays.



The workers' quarters are located next to the construction site. — Photos: SHAARI CHEMAT & FARID WAHAB/The Star

The project involves the construction of a 30-storey apartment block and a three-storey carpark.

Kuala Lumpur Labour Department director Che Mohd Rokman Che Awang said an investigation paper had been opened against the site operator.

"The operator did not obtain approval for the workers' quarters and failed to provide adequate bedding for them.

"The workers were paid cash, which is illegal, because their salary must be banked in," he said.