

MISSING INDIAN NATIONAL

2ND SINKHOLE OPENS UP AT JALAN MASJID INDIA

Entire road closed,
integrity audit to be
conducted

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THE entire stretch of Jalan Masjid India here will remain closed for the time being following the emergence of a second sinkhole yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk

Seri Fadillah Yusof said an integrity audit would be initiated on the underground utilities once the search and rescue for Indian national Vijayaletchumy, who was swallowed up by a sinkhole last week, is concluded.

Fadillah said this after visiting Masjid India following the emergence of the second sinkhole.

With him was Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa, Kuala Lumpur police chief Datuk Rusdi Mohd Isa, Indah Water Konsortium chief executive officer Narendran Maniam and Dang Wangi police chief Assistant Commissioner



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa (second from left) arriving at Jalan Masjid India in Kuala Lumpur to inspect the search and rescue operation yesterday. PIC BY AMIRUDIN SAHIB

Sulizmie Affendy Sulaiman.

Fadillah said, following the emergence of the new sinkhole, the authorities must look into the aspect of public safety.

"I have ordered that an integrity audit be conducted. This means that we will check the entire area to find out the cause of the incident," he said, adding that this audit would be conducted once the search was completed.

He said all relevant parties, including the Kuala Lumpur City Hall and all agencies that have laid utilities underground, would be called up.

"This is so that we can see what utilities are underground to facilitate a post-mortem on the in-

cident. This is also to ensure that such incidents do not recur," he said, adding that the entire drainage system would be looked into.

When asked about the possibility of foreign agencies being called in to help in the search, Fadillah said he believed that Malaysia had enough domestic experts involved in the efforts.

"We have experts from the police, Fire and Rescue Department, and even engineers, and various technology are currently being utilised.

"God willing, there are many who are willing to help, including with the use of cameras and such," he said.

Earlier, another sinkhole emerged about 50m away from the spot where Vijayaletchumy, a tourist from India here with her family, disappeared.

The second sinkhole is located just in front of the Masjid India police post.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall has assured the public it will continue monitoring Jalan Masjid India.

It said the affected area has been cordoned off.

Earlier, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Razarudin Husain had arrived at the site and was seen inspecting the area.

Another ground-penetrating radar device was also seen being used along a stretch of the road.