

Sinkhole repairs to take up to six months: Mayor

KUALA LUMPUR: The recovery and reconstruction of the area affected by the sinkhole incident in Jalan Masjid India are expected to take between three to six months, according to Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Seri Dr Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

She said the recovery and reconstruction work will cover approximately 200m, stretching from Wisma Yakin to the police post in Jalan Masjid India.

The area has been cordoned off with barriers to facilitate repairs and allow detailed investigations into the underground utility systems by relevant agencies.

"Inspecting the underground utility systems will take time and involve agencies such as Indah Water Konsortium and Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) to check for any pipe leaks. Additionally, we will collaborate with telecommunications companies to inspect cables, as there are cables from these companies in the underground sections. The Minerals and Geoscience Department will provide detailed technical reports and information on soil stability around the incident site," she said.

Maimunah also mentioned that a special committee formed on Aug 25 is scheduled to meet tomorrow to discuss the next steps.

She gave an assurance that traders in the area could continue their business as usual, but advised the public to avoid crossing the police yellow tape and to use only the designated pedestrian paths during the recovery process.

On Saturday, it was reported that Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa announced that the search and rescue (SAR) operation for Indian national G. Vijaya Lakshmi, 48, who fell into the sinkhole, had been called off after nine days of searching.

The operation has now transitioned to a search and recovery phase.

Meanwhile, police will continue to monitor and patrol the sinkhole area periodically following the transition from SAR to the recovery phase.

Dang Wangi district police chief ACP Sulizmie Affendy Sulaiman said this measure is to ensure public safety in the vicinity.

"I believe Kuala Lumpur City Hall is better suited to issue statements on restoration efforts, while the police will focus on public safety, monitoring and periodic patrols," he said when contacted.

On Sunday, Zaliha announced that a proposal to compensate the family of Vijaya Lakshmi would be discussed at the Cabinet meeting tomorrow.

"I intend to bring this matter to the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday," she said after attending the closing ceremony and awards presentation of the 2024 Royal Floria Putrajaya. – Bernama