

Police await full medical report on balloon seller's injuries

KUALA LUMPUR: Police are awaiting the full medical report from Sultan Idris Shah Hospital in Serdang regarding the injuries sustained by a balloon seller involved in an altercation with Kuala Lumpur City Hall enforcement officers on March 28.

City police chief Datuk Rusdi Mohd Isa said they had received only an initial medical report from the hospital, which confirmed that the seller suffered a fractured bone.

"So far, the confirmed injuries are fractures (of the bone) and soft tissue damage resulting from the altercation.

"We have not received the full report from the hospital. The re-

port is still being completed, but there is a fracture (of the bone).

"The full medical report is expected within 30 days," he said after the Kuala Lumpur Narcotics Crime Investigation Department chief handover ceremony at the city police headquarters here yesterday.

On Sunday, private medical officer Dr Hafidz Rizal reported that balloon seller Muhamad Za'imuddin Azlan was at risk of paralysis due to spinal injuries.

He said Za'imuddin, who was hospitalised from March 28 to April 4, was diagnosed with a "compression fracture T12" (thoracic spinal cord nerve).

He said this was disclosed in

the discharge note and the 48-day sick leave certificate issued by Sultan Idris Shah Hospital's orthopaedic department.

Dr Hafidz said this at a press conference held with Za'imuddin and his lawyer, Muhammad Rafique Rashid Ali, after they lodged a report on the incident.

Rusdi confirmed that four police reports had been received regarding the case, with the most recent being filed by the victim at 11.50am on Sunday at the Dang Wangi police headquarters.

"Checks show that the report filed by the balloon seller contains consistent details about the incident, as described in his statement, which we recorded

previously following the report made by his mother on March 29.

"The report made by the man is classified as 'refer to other report' (referred to the previous report) made by his mother.

"Investigations into the case are being conducted under Section 325 of the Penal Code, which pertains to voluntarily causing hurt."

Rusdi said several individuals had been questioned, including nine City Hall officers, two civilians and the supplier of the balloons.

He added that three investigation papers had been opened under Section 186 (obstructing a public servant from carrying out

their duties), Section 506 (criminal intimidation) and Section 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt) of the Penal Code, as well as Section 233 of the Communications and Multimedia Act (improper use of network facilities or services).

Rusdi said police's investigations had been completed, and the investigation papers were handed to the deputy public prosecutor on April 2 and 4.

"We are now awaiting further instructions from the DPP."

Videos of the altercation, showing City Hall officers and traders shoving and pushing, had gone viral, prompting City Hall to launch its probe.