

City Hall finds no violations at site where UK backpacker died

KUALA LUMPUR: City Hall found no violations at the Bangsar construction site where a 25-year-old British backpacker was found dead last week.

Following an inspection on June 5, City Hall executive director (Planning) Datuk Zulkarnain Hassan said periodic checks showed the site was properly sectioned off.

“It’s a large project, to be developed in phases. One of the phases has been completed and the other is still under construc-

tion, which is permissible.

“They have, in fact, separated the part of the completed project from the one under construction.

“So, it’s properly cordoned off,” he said.

However, the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) has halted construction pending investigation.

Zulkarnain added that City Hall’s authority on construction sites is limited. “City Hall’s concern, based on building by-laws and other laws, is to ensure that

the construction does not cause a nuisance to neighbours.

“We make sure every site has hoardings displaying the project details — what it is, who the main consultant is, the contractor, developer and the person in charge,” he said.

He added that City Hall regulates construction hours, and this site had been granted an extension to operate until 10pm — three hours beyond the 7am to 7pm limit in Kuala Lumpur.

“Thirdly, we have jurisdiction

over the vehicles and routes used for construction.

“We monitor site cleanliness, ensure lorry tyres are cleaned, and check that drains aren’t obstructed,” he told the *New Straits Times*, adding that no violations were recorded at the time of inspection.

Zulkarnain said that the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) plays a role by appointing contractors, who are responsible for ensuring standard operating procedures (SOPs) are

followed.

On Tuesday, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health chairman Chong Chieng Jen urged CIDB and DOSH to investigate the developer and all parties involved in the construction site where the Briton’s body was found.

Police believe the 25-year-old had entered the construction site before falling into a partially completed lift shaft.

His body was discovered submerged in water.