

24 MAR 1999

Lim-Maintenance

ACCIDENT DUE TO SYSTEM FAILURE AND POOR MAINTENANCE

KUALA LUMPUR, March 24 (Bernama) -- System failure and poor maintenance have been identified as the cause of the last Monday's accident which resulted in the death of two workers and nine others injured at the construction site of Taman Seputih condominium here.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said today preliminary investigation showed that the accident might be due to mechanical failure.

He told reporters after visiting the site where two workers plunged to their death from sixth floor to the second level of the 28-storey condominium when a material hoist carrying them with nine others gave away.

The dead workers were Indonesians while the survivors included two Malaysians.

Lim said the passenger hoist has the capacity of 1.0 tonne or a maximum of 12 passengers and it was suspected that the emergency brake system failed after the initial brake malfunctioned.

Lim who inspected the site about one hour said all works at the site had been halted pending investigations by the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

He said the stop-work order would only be lifted after DOSH was satisfied with safety measures taken by the developer, Far East Land and Housing Development Company Sdn Bhd and its main contractor Intria Bina Sdn Bhd.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was particular concerned about the "maintenance culture" among the public including the maintenance at the KL International Airport (KLIA)'s Bunga Raya complex which houses the airport's VVIP room.

The weaknesses of the maintenance in the complex was discussed during today's cabinet meeting, he said.

Lim said he had ordered DOSH to take certain preventive measures to avoid the recurrence of similar incident.

--BERNAMA

NHD ABG