

# PRESS STATEMENT

BY SENIOR MINISTER (INFRASTRUCTURE CLUSTER),  
YB DATO' SRI HJ FADILLAH BIN HJ YUSOF

---

## RESPONSE ON NEW COVID-19 CLUSTER AT CONSTRUCTION SITE IN KL

I would like to express my concern regarding the latest outbreak of Covid-19 among construction workers.

On May 24, 2020, the Health Department of Federal Territory KL and Putrajaya (JKWPKLP) informed the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) of 44 cases of Covid-19 at a construction site in Kuala Lumpur.

These positive cases were discovered after the contractor sent his workers for clinical tests as a preparation to start work, as required under the Construction Industry Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

**The construction site had NOT started operations when the positive cases of Covid-19 were discovered.**

These latest cases, as with the earlier incident involving construction workers, have shown that the infections took place at the workers' cramped accommodations which make it impossible to practise any form of social distancing.

I would like to send a stern reminder to all contractors that they have a responsibility to ensure that their construction sites and also their workers' accommodation adhere strictly to CMCO SOPs, in order to stem the spread of Covid-19.

In the Construction Industry Transformation Programme (CITP) which began in 2016, one of the main initiatives was to ensure that workers' accommodations in construction sites adhered to the minimum standard as required by the law.

In 2016, CIDB in collaboration with Standard Malaysia introduced the Malaysian Standard for Construction Site Workers' Amenities and Accommodation (MS 2593:2015) and last year, the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act (Act 466) under the Labour Department, Ministry of Human Resources was amended to include workers from all industries, including the construction sector.

The law makes it the responsibility of employers to ensure that workers stay at proper accommodations with adequate amenities as provided by the law.

With the CMCO in place, this requirement is further strengthened with other SOPs to ensure that workers' accommodations are safe from becoming a place where Covid-19 can spread.

1/3

---

Dikeluarkan oleh:

**Unit Komunikasi Korporat | Kementerian Kerja Raya Malaysia**

☎ : 03- 8000 8000 / D.L :03-2771 4616 / 4627 | 📠 : 03-2711 1101

Laman Web : [www.kkr.gov.my](http://www.kkr.gov.my) |  Kementerian Kerja Raya |  @MOWorks |  Pro@kk.gov.my

Contractors who fail to follow the CMCO SOPs at construction sites and in regard to workers' accommodations, will not be allowed to start their operations.

If they are found to not fulfil the requirements under Act 446, action may be taken against them by the relevant authorities.

If any contractor fails to abide by any written law, the CIDB can take disciplinary action against them, which includes the suspension or cancellation of their contractor's registration.

The best way for the construction industry to move forward post-Covid-19 is to ensure that they are no longer dependent on cheap foreign labour.

Instead, they must invest in hiring skilled local workers and use technology – Industrialised Building System (IBS), mechanisation and automation to enhance the quality, safety, sustainability and productivity of their construction projects.

**YB DATO' SRI HJ FADILLAH BIN HJ YUSOF**  
SENIOR MINISTER (INFRASTRUCTURE CLUSTER)  
26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## 1. CONSTRUCTION SITE INFO:

### i) Type of project:

19-storey office blocks

### ii) Workers involved:

- 400
- 228 stayed at a *kongsi* next to the construction site.

### iii) COVID-19 Lab Test Results:

400 workers have been sent for Covid-19 swab test and the test results which was submitted to the Ministry of Health (MOH) showed that 44 workers tested positive for Covid-19.

### iv) Workers' Accommodation

- The 44 workers testing positive for Covid-19 consist of:
  - **43 foreign workers** (42 stayed at a *Kongsi* and 1 in Selangor Mansion)
  - 1 local worker (security guard)

## 2. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- The Construct site has been ordered to close by JKWPKLP.
- The contractor had also been instructed to clean and sanitise the construction site and the workers' accommodations.
- More than 200 workers will be quarantined at a nearby location, whereas the 44 positive cases have been warded at Sungai Buloh Hospital.