

Where safety standards come to life

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SUNGAI BULOH: Malaysia's first Safety, Health and Environment Display Centre was launched on Friday to improve industry practices in the Klang Valley MY Rapid Transit (MRT) project and set a precedent for industry standards.

The display centre at the MRT Sungai Buloh Depot was developed by MMC-Gamuda Sdn Bhd, MRT's project development partner (PDP), and shows more than 26 components that contractors will have to comply with.

"The aim is to help contractors visualise the proper safety procedures, ensure consistent high standards in safety, health and environment in all MRT project

sites," PDP general manager Adil Putra Ahmad said.

He said the reason for the display centre was because the MRT project is the biggest civil engineering project in the country and construction passes through densely populated areas. "Our aim is to prevent injury, minimise environmental impact, and ensure inconvenience to the public is reduced to a minimum."

The centre shows construction components such as scaffolding, mobile cranes, excavation trenches and fuel storage areas built to PDP's standards. It is used during tender briefings for contractors to show what is expected of them.

PDP health and safety manager S. Vasudevan said contractors must ensure their pricing when bidding for

tenders includes sufficient allowances for every item listed, which is essential for maintenance and safety.

"Contractors must be prepared to allocate around 3% to 5% of their contract value to ensure safety, health and environment standards are met," he said.

Vasudevan said the law does not specify "safe access" in construction sites, resulting in slipshod safety standards. "With this display centre, the contractors will see what we want and will have no reason to interpret it any other way," he said.

Adil said after the contracts were awarded, PDP will be involved in the developments through advice, training, inspections and organising external audits to ensure everything runs smoothly.