



By CHRISTINA LOW
christinalow@thestar.com.my

Stricter safety measures at MRT project sites

Safety superintendents conduct inspection 24 hours daily to ensure works in compliance with regulations and protocols

ABOUT 200 non-compliance to safety incidents were identified and corrected at Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project sites since MMC Gamuda introduced the Zero Tolerance Programme late last month.

MMC-Gamuda KVMRT (PDP) Sdn Bhd deputy construction director Adil Putra Ahmad said those incidents were simple mistakes similar to not placing a safety cone at designated areas or not installing a hand-rail at staircases leading up to a worksite which could potentially lead to safety hazards.

With the programme, an additional 60 safety superintendents were deployed to MRT worksites to provide a second layer check to spot such mistakes.

"This team will work hand in hand with the works package contractors' (WPCs) safety teams and inspection is conducted 24 hours daily at all sites.

"They act like 'auditors' with the authority to stop any work that does not conform to the safety regulations and procedures," said Adil during a media briefing and site visit to the MRT elevated packages V4 (Phileo Damansara, Petaling Jaya to Semantan in Kuala Lumpur) and V5 (Taman Pertama to Taman Connaught in Cheras).

He added that the current phase of work at most sites was at an intense level, therefore stricter checks and inspections from the safety superintendents was crucial.

"We have also identified certain activities that we classified as high-risk and critical activities that need extra attention such as crane lifting, excavation works, piling works, working at heights and launching girder operation," said Adil, who headed the visit.

He was joined by IJM Construction executive director Yong Juen Wah at the package V5 site in Cheras which covered a 5.47km-stretch with four MRT stations.

The group visited the Taman Midah MRT Station and was shown the current work progress there, as well as the concourse level of the station, and the safety procedures carried out at the site.

"We all know with all these added personnel and procedures



1 Tan (right) showing Adil (centre) and MRT Corp strategic communications and public relations director Amir Mahmood Abdul Razak the progress of work at the V4 package site.

2 Most of the works carried out at the V4 package site take place adjacent to 'live' traffic. Road closures along the Sprint Highway, Bangsar and roads leading to Hartamas is frequently made to allow sufficient space for the contractors to safely carry out high-risk activities.

3 Construction workers at the V5 package site in Cheras dressed in their safety gear as they carry out their tasks at the concourse level of the Taman Midah MRT Station.

that we have put in place, it will not be sustainable.

"There must be ownership from the contractors, which is why we emphasise on all the WPCs that their teams must take ownership of worksite safety to ensure success," he said.

He added that the WPCs had also set up their own safety teams and had begun working together with the project delivery partner's safety superintendents team to inspect worksites daily.

"We have started safety site walks where the senior management from the contractors are involved to make sure that they go through with us and identify what is wrong and make sure whatever

works that do not comply with safety guidelines will be fixed," he said adding that they were continuing with their toolbox talk and safety trainings as well as regular inspections.

The group also visited the package V4 site where a large area of the construction site is adjacent to "live" traffic.

"This is unfortunately the most transparent line. Everyone passes it and are able to see the entire line of the V4 package measuring about 6km long.

"Public cooperation is important especially on days when roads have to be closed as a safety measure whenever we carry out critical works at the site," said Sunway

Group Construction Division senior managing director Datuk Tan Kia Loke.

Tan said the company would never lift heavy materials or components over live traffic, hence the frequent closure roads around the Sprint Highway, Bangsar and roads leading to Hartamas.

Besides the implementation of the Zero Tolerance Programme and getting the WPCs together, Adil said MMC Gamuda was also taking a serious approach to safeguard workers and public safety.

"We will not hesitate to remove MRT workers who are found to repeatedly ignore or fail to abide safety regulations and protocols at the site," he said.

We have also identified certain activities that we classified as high-risk and critical activities that need extra attention.

— ADIL PUTRA AHMAD

