



Fire and Rescue Department director-general Datuk Seri Wan Mohd Nor Ibrahim (second from left) at the soft launch of the 2018 International Fire Conference and Exhibition Malaysia in Putrajaya yesterday. With him is Fire and Rescue Department deputy director-general Datuk Soiman Jahid (left).
PIC BY AHMAD IRHAM MOHD NOOR

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

'Conduct fire safety audit every 10 years'

PUTRAJAYA: The Fire and Rescue Department has recommended that the management of buildings conduct a fire safety audit every 10 years.

This could be done through the appointment of independent consultants or experts to evaluate the safety of the building occupied, said its director-general, Datuk Seri Wan Mohd Nor Ibrahim.

"The management or building owners should do this if they want to ensure the safety of the building and the people who are occupying their properties."

He added that the department would be able to recommend if the building was safe for occupation or maintenance work should be carried out.

He was responding to the recent fire at the Employees

Provident Fund (EPF) building in Jalan Gasing, Petaling Jaya, last week.

While almost 40 per cent of the building was reportedly destroyed, 527 staff members were safely evacuated.

Wan Mohd Nor said even if a building's Certificate of Fitness (CF) and Certificate of Completion and Compliance (CCC) were in order, the fire safety audit was necessary.

He added that buildings in Malaysia had no issues with meeting the international standard requirements in terms of CF and CCC, but the maintenance culture was lacking.

"Maintenance of buildings should be carried out every year. But these buildings carry out renovation, modification and facelifts every now and then,

therefore this audit is recommended to ensure the safety of the building."

He said the department also carried out checks on buildings from time to time and at some buildings, such checks were conducted every year.

Wan Mohd Nor said this at the soft launch of the 2018 International Fire Conference and Exhibition Malaysia.

The three-day conference, which will take place on March 27 at Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa, will be officiated by Urban Well-being, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar.

A total of 1,300 international and local participants have registered for the conference and 130 booths have been taken up by 60 exhibitors.