

# Observe etiquette when taking lift

Responsibility of all to care for this vital facility in high-rise residences

THE accident involving a lift at the People's Housing Projects (PPR) Kerinchi, which dropped from the fifth floor and injured eight people, saddened many.

It crashed because of a brake malfunction.

The car plunged at 2.13m per second (mps), beyond its normal operating speed of 1.75mps but the backup brake was not triggered as it did not exceed the "tripping speed" of 2.18mps.

Some netizens expressed sympathy to the victims, including a 10-year-old boy who suffered broken legs and injured ankles, while some lamented that such a mishap was because of the lack of maintenance.

However, it was reported that the lifts had up-to-date maintenance that is valid until January 2020.

Luckily enough, it did not turn out to be a fatal accident.

As a journalist with *StarMetro*, I have visited PPR flats to cover various government functions, press conferences called by local leaders to highlight community issues or for just a simple "street interview" with the people.

It is common to see rundown lifts at PPR flats with missing buttons, damaged ceiling, filthy floors and sometimes, reeking with a foul stench.

I remembered a story I worked on with my colleague in 2013 where we did a spot check on the condition of lifts at several PPR flats in Kuala Lumpur.

In our survey, we found that many lifts were vandalised and



residents were not taking enough care of the lifts.

I remember seeing people punching the buttons in the lifts. There was even a man who had pushed his motorcycle into the lift without care, overloading the lift.

Some of the people we talked to attributed the damage of the lifts to rowdy and irresponsible behaviour of PPR residents.

Sad to say such incidents are still happening to this day, not only at PPR flats but also at apartments of medium cost and above.

Last month while going up to my apartment unit, a man trudged into the confined lift carriage which already had two other passengers, with his bicycle, presumably after an evening of cycling.

I told him that he was not supposed to bring in a bicycle and received only an awkward smile in response.

Not knowing if my message was clear or how much he understood me, I gave up pursuing the issue.

In another incident, a hyperactive boy was jumping inside the lift while his parents nonchalantly asked him to stop.

Of course, he ignored his parents and continued his shenanigans until I gave him a frowned stare.

He stopped right away, not so much because he was scared but I think more out of embarrassment over the silent reproach from a stranger.

In this case, I blame the parents for not teaching their child the right manner of using the lift.

I have also seen people entering the lift dripping wet directly from the swimming pool.

All of these are really a reflection on the lack of civic-mindedness among our people.

People living in high-rises need to know that it is their responsibility to take care of the lifts in their buildings and that the consequences of ignoring that responsibility will come back to bite them on their behind.

When lifts break down, absolutely everyone in the building is affected.

Aside from observing proper etiquette while taking the lifts, unit owners should also pay maintenance fees on time.

The Joint Management Body (JMB) at residential high-rises is responsible for the lifts' scheduled maintenance and repairs but such efforts will be hampered if unit owners default on maintenance fees.

Also, exercise your civic duty and report other passengers who abuse or vandalise the facility as some JMBs have made available to residents, direct complaint channels such as Whatsapp.

These are some of the little things we can do to ensure lifts at our high-rise residence are functional at all times.



Incidents like the lift that crashed in PPR Kerinchi, Kuala Lumpur, show how important it is for everyone to take care of the facility in their buildings. — Filepic