



The malfunctioning lift in Block C has been given a new certificate of fitness at PPR Kerinchi, Pantai Dalam. (Left) Khalid flanked by Fahmi (left) and Nor Hisham at the press conference in PPR Kerinchi. — Bernama

Khalid: Lifts in public housing safe

All 528 under City Hall have valid permits to operate, says FT Minister

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ALL 528 lifts at public housing projects under the maintenance of Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) have valid permits to operate, says Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abdul Samad.

Khalid said the permits are issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Department (DOSH).

"All public housing projects must make an application to renew the required permit at least three months before the expiry date," he said in a press conference after visiting Block C of Kampung Kerinchi PPR in Pantai Dalam, Kuala Lumpur.

Khalid was accompanied by Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan and

Lembah Pantai MP Fahmi Fadzil.

Khalid said the lift at Block C of Kampung Kerinchi PPR, which was involved in a freak accident on Aug 2, also had a valid permit which is only expiring on Jan 16 next year.

Following the incident, Khalid said checks were conducted by DOSH on Sept 12, Oct 17 and Nov 22 to ascertain whether the lift was safe.

"The mechanical components of the lift's brakes were also replaced before a new certificate of fitness was issued," said Khalid.

He added that based on records, the lift had gone through its monthly maintenance.

"This maintenance was jointly conducted by the lift company's technician and DBKL," said Khalid, adding that the lift had also gone through scheduled inspection once every three months.

"This inspection was conducted by a 'competent person' registered with DOSH," he said.

During the Aug 2 incident, the lift plunged at a speed of 2.13m per second (mps), which was beyond its normal operating speed of 1.75mps after one of its two brakes failed.

Although the lift was equipped with a back-up brake, it was not triggered as the lift did not exceed the tripping speed which was 2.18mps.

Nine people, including a minor, were injured in the incident.

Commenting on the danger posed by several sinkholes which had surfaced in the city, Khalid said DBKL had met with Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd on the matter.

"They are working to identify roads which have underground pipes beneath them," said Khalid, adding that more needs to be done to

improve the detection of underground water leaks.

Nor Hisham said many underground pipes were decades old and need to be replaced.

Khalid said there were 8,000km of underground pipes in the city, adding that DBKL will work with relevant authorities to identify the priority areas for replacement.

Three sinkholes occurred in Jalan Maharajalela, Jalan Pinang and Jalan Dewan Bahasa Pustaka in recent weeks, believed to be caused by leaky underground pipes.

Air Selangor, in a statement on Nov 27, identified several likely factors such as soil movement caused by vibrations and rainwater.

"Pipes can also burst if they cannot handle high water pressure, especially in the case of old asbestos cement pipes," it said.