

Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan and HMS hold fire drill

SANDAKAN: Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan and Harbour Mall Sandakan conducted a fire drill with the collaboration of the Sandakan Fire and Rescue Department, Duchess of Kent Hospital and district police on Thursday.

It was totally well organised with over 300 employees from the Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan together with the Harbour Mall Sandakan (HMS) shop lot vendors and Harbour Mall Square taking every precaution to ensure that safety was given priority.

The exercise took a good 45 minutes but this time around, the strategy was not to complete it within a time frame but instead to ensure that all 20 victims were brought to safety.

Some were classified as serious and unconscious while others were semi-serious. A group of paramedics were present under the leadership of Dr Shuhaidah and Dr Patrick with their commander Dr Aethosham.

Both the hotel's and mall's ERT (Emergency Response Team) led by the respective Emergency Commanders in charge, their respective General Managers were all hands on deck to ensure that guests were taken care off with



Firefighters involved in the fire drill assembled near the hotel building.

care, not alarmed and no sign of panic.

It started off with smoke on one of the higher floors at the hotel and thick smoke swept through the areas from the 14th to the 17th floors. There are 20 injured victims were spread in different areas and it was up to the ERT

Search and Rescue to identify these victims.

Naturally being an exercise and drill, many lessons were pointed out by the rescuers and the Trauma/Emergency teams from Hospital Duchess of Kent which were represented by over 30 members of their respective crew and trained personnel and medical representatives.

Hotel General Manager Peter Padman mentioned that this exercise which is carried out quarterly was the first of its kind where live victims were the focus this time.

He was extremely pleased with the support given by his respective Department Heads, namely Rosmi Ibrahim and Julfikar Laja for were the floor marshals and cooperated extremely well with the chief of security Jimmy Ch'ng and his assistant Ariffin Asmat. Human Resources was overseeing the assembly point under the leadership of Haeruddin Nurdin ensured that all victims were safe and found.

This was ensured by the floor warden Maxwell Micky with Azizan Mashud who checked to ensure that every floor was evacuated, Peter said.

Live exercises with the ambulances plying to and fro and ferrying the victims was a great success as the time lapse in between each trip was within the stipulated time frame, he added.

"Hotel guests and mall patrons also participated in the exercise saying that it was important to ensure that they too felt safe since the properties had conducted regular emergency drill with real scenarios," Peter said.

Peter said, the project was overseen by Ireka Corporation Berhad Senior Manager, Group Security and Safety, Jamz Jamsari who flew in from Kuala Lumpur specifically for this exercise to ensure that the Security and Safety was the Hotel's priority.