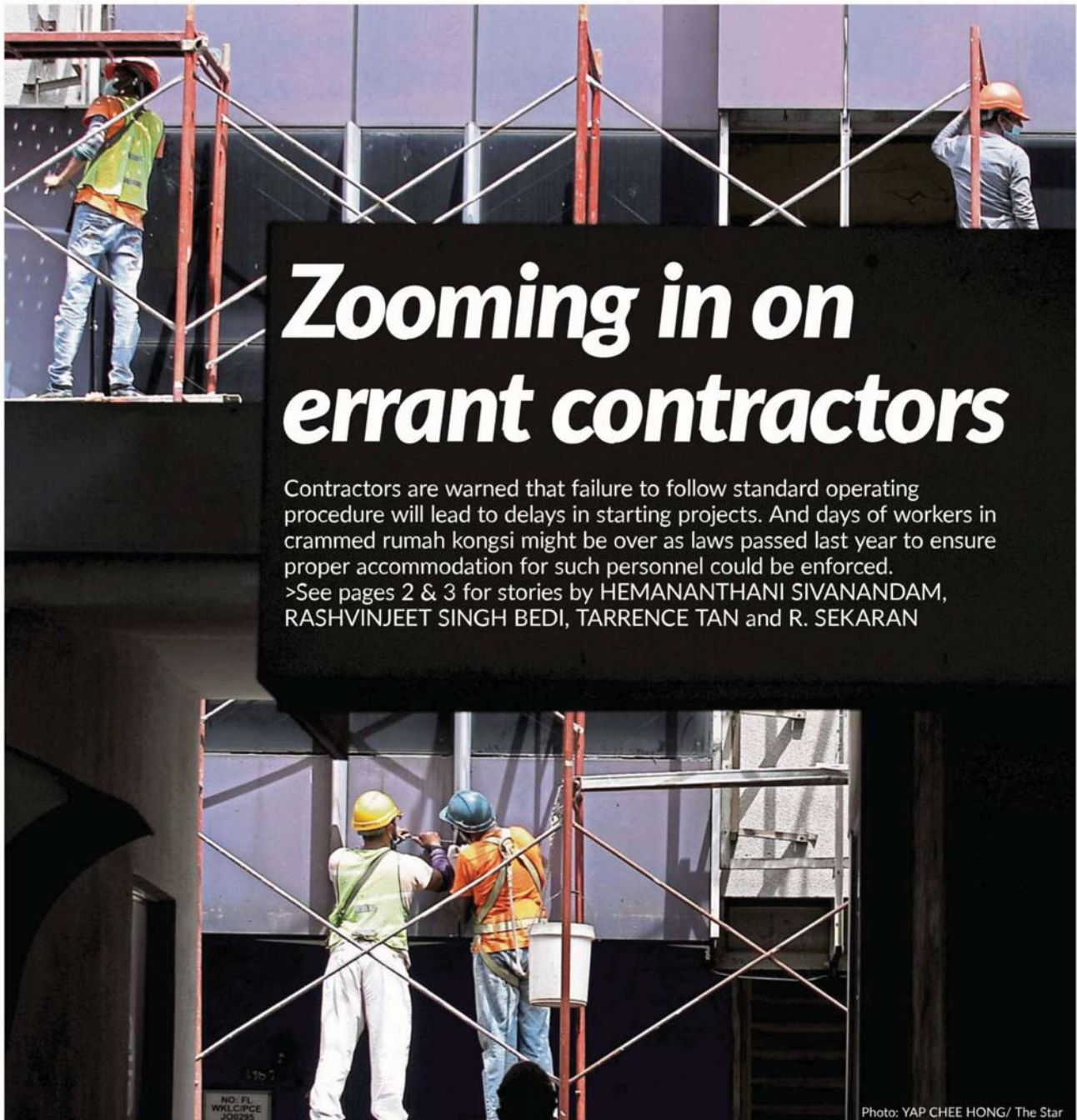


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Journalist	HEMANANTHANI SIVANANDAM	AdValue	RM 50,873
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Zooming in on errant contractors

Contractors are warned that failure to follow standard operating procedure will lead to delays in starting projects. And days of workers in cramped rumah kongsi might be over as laws passed last year to ensure proper accommodation for such personnel could be enforced.

>See pages 2 & 3 for stories by HEMANANTHANI SIVANANDAM, RASHVINJEET SINGH BEDI, TARRENCE TAN and R. SEKARAN

Photo: YAP CHEE HONG/ The Star

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By HEMANANTHANI SIVANANDAM, RASHVINJEET SINGH BEDI, TARRENCE TAN and R. SEKARAN

Construction industry reminded to comply with rules

PETALING JAYA: Developers and contractors are reminded to display the highest compliance required of them to reduce negative perception on the industry.

All companies in the construction industry must follow the standard operating procedure (SOP) to prevent the spread of Covid-19, says Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (Rehda) president Datuk Soam Heng Choon.

He said employers need to ensure

the accommodation provided to their foreign workers follow standards and guidelines set by the authorities.

"Employers must pay attention to where their workers stay, not just foreign workers but also locals.

"Local workers usually wouldn't live in very cramped spaces but foreign workers don't mind because they want to save money to send home.

"But it is tough for employers to

inspect each and every one of these living spaces if they are not providing them the accommodation.

"However, if the accommodation is provided by employers, then the onus is on them to ensure it complies with the minimum standards issued by the Labour Department," he said when contacted.

Soam, however, said it was not just the construction industry that could be blamed, adding that every employer should ensure proper

accommodation for workers.

"To put it squarely on construction sites is not fair. It may be a cluster but if you look, there are foreign workers in other places too like shopping malls and the virus can infect anybody.

"So employers, especially in the construction industry, must play their role and comply with regulations," he said.

Soam said adoption of the SOP and measures was part of the new

normal in the workplace.

He urged all developers to work closely with stakeholders to play their role and help contain the spread of Covid-19.

"The association would like to strongly remind our members to ensure that staff members and contractors fully abide by the SOP for Construction Industry issued by the Ministry of Works and the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB)," he said.