

PWD informed a year ago

Menteri besar issued a reminder three weeks ago when no action was taken

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KUALA TERENGGANU: The State Public Works Department was told about the defects to the roof of the Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Stadium a year ago.

And when nothing was done, Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Said called a meeting with the PWD three weeks ago and reminded them to look into the problem.

Ahmad wanted the defects rectified as soon as possible as the end of the defect liability period was fast approaching.

"I did not want anything bad to happen. The PWD took steps to address the matter but I cannot comment why it took so long, nor why the roof collapsed," Ahmad said.

The menteri besar said he had informed PWD to look into the defects immediately after the 12th Malaysia Games (Sukma) last May.

Ahmad said that the state government would now look for foreign experts for a second opinion into the cause of the collapse.

"This way, we can compare the findings of the foreign experts with that of the consultant hired by the PWD, to en-



About 60 per cent of the roof of the Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Stadium collapsed at 9.30am on Tuesday. — Bernama picture

sure the findings are consistent and ironclad.

"We will not put a time frame in selecting the foreign consultant. We do not want to carry out a rush job.

"We want a thorough report so that we will not be ques-

tioned later on. We don't want to be embarrassed again."

The RM292 million stadium, built last year, is now out of operation after a large section of its roof collapsed on Tuesday.

The authorities are nevertheless, counting their bless-

ings, that the roof did not collapse yesterday as the stadium was the venue for the Malaysian Inter-Varsity Staff Games.

The event would have seen some 3,000 competitors and officials taking part. As the

collapse occurred above the grandstand area, several VIPs could have been seriously hurt if the games had gone on and the roof collapsed 24 hours later. The incident, however, damaged a car and four motorcycles.

Design flaw could be the cause Games participants glad none was hurt

KUALA TERENGGANU: An eleventh-hour decision to use a space frame design for the roof of the Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Stadium could have led to its collapse on Tuesday morning.

A source familiar with the RM292 million project said the space frame roof that came crashing down was never part of the stadium's original design.

A decision was made at the last minute to cover the grandstand area with a space frame roofing to add a "curvy, grandeur and sophisticated" look to it.

The source said this, coupled with a looming deadline for the opening of the Malaysia Games, was a recipe for a disaster waiting to happen.

"It was done in a hurry and everyone in the engineering field knows that a space frame



Police have cordoned off the stadium to keep out trespassers and to prevent any untoward incidents.

It draws its strength from the triangular frames that make up the truss-like rigid structure.

It is lightweight, capable of spanning large distances with few supports and can create curves to increase the visual impact

looked into very carefully when investigations on the incident began.

He said debris from the collapse would not be cleared until the investigations were completed adding that insurers and adjusters would also be doing their own investiga-

KUALA TERENGGANU: Relief was the order of the day for more than 3,000 participants of the Malaysian Inter Varsity Staff Games which began yesterday at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu.

During registration at the university's Dewan Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin in Mengabang Telipot, most of the participants expressed shock over the collapsed roof of the stadium.

The stadium was one of the eight venues for the 11-day games.

But the competitors also thanked their lucky stars that the roof did not cave in when they were competing in bowling and athletics events at the stadium.

Universiti Putra Malaysia secretariat head Zaharah Ab-

tingent of 265 faculty staff to take a look at the place.

"Now all I can think of is how lucky I am as I was supposed to have trained for my shot putt event on that afternoon," she said.

Universiti Malaysia Perlis bowling team manager Mohd Safrizaul Baha Abu Bakar, 27, was equally relieved as he and his teammates were scheduled to practise at the stadium's bowling alley on Tuesday.

"We would have probably not been in any direct danger as the bowling alley is inside the main stadium building."

Meanwhile, organising committee chairman professor Dr Abd Majid Mohd Isa, 50, said the stadium was supposed to have been one of the attractions of the games. Host-

voices



WHEN I SAW THE DAMAGE ON TV, I WAS SHOCKED AS THIS WAS WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN.

— Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah
Deputy Higher Education Minister,
who was supposed to have launched the Malaysian Inter-Varsity Staff games tomorrow.



I WAS HERE TO INSPECT THE STADIUM A FEW MONTHS AGO AND I REMEMBER BEING IMPRESSED WITH THE FACILITIES.

— Zaharah Abdullah
Universiti Putra Malaysia secretariat head



THE STADIUM WAS ALSO ONE OF THE REASONS WE MANAGED TO CONVINCe THE COMMITTEE TO ALLOW US TO BECOME THE HOST AND WE WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO SHOWING