

9 October 2008

Mr Mah Bow Tan
Minister for National Development

Dear *Minister*

APPEAL AGAINST FOREIGN WORKER DORMITORY AT SERANGOON GARDEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL PREMISES

Thank you for your response of 2 Oct 2008 wherein you notified me of the Ministry's decision to proceed to convert the old school premises into a dormitory and outlined the various measures that would be taken to address my residents' key concerns.

2 My residents and I are appreciative of the substantial modifications to the tentative indications. However, there are still concerns over operating a dormitory in a largely residential neighbourhood. The creation of the new access road has caused additional concerns among the residents who live in close proximity to the site, namely residents in the Tai Hwan, Li Hwan and Mei Hwan neighbourhoods.

OPERATION OF DORMITORY

3 Facilitated by my Neighbourhood Committee, the residents have organized themselves into an Ad Hoc Committee chaired by Mr John Leow to draw up a list of suggested measures which they hope can be incorporated into the (tender) specifications for the appointment of an operator. These concerns revolve around safety and security issues, and noise pollution and other disamenities. Their requests can be found in the Annex.

4 Once the dormitory is up and running, it would be appreciated if the following can be facilitated:

- (a) Contact details of the Appointed Operator to be made readily available so that problems relating to the dormitory or the occupants can be addressed or attended to promptly;
- (b) Enforcement Agencies – the Police for safety and security and NEA for noise and environmental pollution – to step up patrols and presence in the

first year of operation so as to nip problems in the bud before they become permanent disamenities; and,

- (c) Traffic - for Land Transport Authority to study the traffic impact and to implement the necessary measures should additional traffic volume present difficulties for residents in the immediate vicinity.

ALTERNATIVE ACCESS VIA CTE

5 Residents are concerned over the loss of privacy, traffic problems and noise pollution arising from the creation of the new access road which will exit from Ang Mo Kio Ave 1. As communicated to you verbally, a few have proposed a direct ramp on and off the south-bound CTE at the closest point to the site instead of the entrance via the slip road and exit via Ang Mo Kio Ave 1. Can the relevant agency please explore the feasibility of this alternative and inform us of the implications?

6 My residents would also appreciate having more information about the timeline.

7 Thank you once again.

Yours



Lim Hwee Hua (Mrs)
Member of Parliament for Aljunied GRC

cc Land Transport Authority

Minister George Yeo
MP for Aljunied GRC

Mr John Leow
Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee
Serangoon Garden Technical School Site (SGTS)

SUGGESTIONS FOR INCORPORATION INTO SPECIFICATIONS FOR DORMITORY OPERATOR

Objectives:

(A) To address safety and security concerns

1. Restrict dormitory area and access road to those staying in or operating the dormitory
2. Limit access into and out of the premises via one gate and the access road only
Seal off existing smaller gate along the fence at Tai Hwan Heights.
Provide barrier to access from the proposed gate (Point C) to Tai Hwan Terrace /Grove via the small pathway
3. Provide access control for all buses at the entrance into the dormitory complex, and to persons at an appropriate point.
(If guests are allowed, what are the control measures?)
4. Provide a surveillance system within the complex, especially along the perimeter fence. Provide some down lighting along perimeter fence.
- ? 5. Install additional fence along the drain, parallel to the existing fence to limit access into the estate via the drain.
- ? 6. Provide fencing along the road so that movement along the access road into the dormitory will be limited to the road only

(B) To minimize traffic problems and noise pollution

1. Provide good and strong insulation via fencing or other means to surround site
2. Screen off access road with fencing or trees to cut down on noise, provide for security but with good aesthetics to blend with the surrounding

3. Limit access into and out of the dormitory to buses to be provided by the operator. Motor and bicycles should not be permitted
4. Shift passenger alighting point/bus drop off point and parking closer to the dormitory area (between points C and D) so that the buses can turn around in the concrete area within the premises
5. Control access to vehicles/buses at the entrance into the dormitory complex.

(C) To minimize disamenities caused by occupants in neighbourhoods nearby

1. Implement enforcement and surveillance measures for both the site and occupants
2. Ensure buses are scheduled properly so as to avoid creating noise during sleeping hours and to avoid the morning peak hour traffic along Ang Mo Kio Ave 1.
3. Provide shuttle buses to MRT stations for the weekends to minimize spillover to nearby estates
4. Ensure there are no "mass" events or activities after 10.30 pm.
5. Ensure adequate facilities are provided so that dormitory residents will not need to use the facilities in the surrounding vicinity in such numbers
