

30 March 2005

Mr. Cheng Chip Khiang
General Manager
Nai Seng Sdn. Bhd.
2-2-9, Lebuhr Pekaka Satu,
11700 Gelugor.

Sir,

BLOCK 31A, B, C & D CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCIES

I am disappointed to note that you have not seen it fit to ensure the safety of all the residents of Block 31A, B, C & D. I have not received a reply to my letter dated 10 August 2004. It was only after a follow-up letter from the Persatuan Penduduk-Penduduk dated 17 September 2004 that you replied asking them to liaise with the relevant authorities to organise fire drills and such.

We have suffered two earthquakes within three months. On both occasions your guards were at a loss at what action they should take. Without a proper plan for evacuation, all lives staying within the premises here were at risk. Yet, you still refuse to take proactive action in drawing up proper procedures for your guards and all residents to ensure that they know what should be done in a situation like this should it happen again.

I understand that **most** of the structures here were built according to the plan approved by the relevant authorities. **However, your maintenance of essential equipment leaves much to be desired.** I point to the incident on 27 April 2004 when the emergency generator failed to kick in during a power failure leaving the whole of Taman Pekaka Block 31A, B, C & D in total darkness. **Residents were trapped in elevators and most importantly without electricity the wet riser and all the Lif Bomba for the three blocks of apartment failed to function as required during a power failure.**

What is the point of informing us that the fire fighting equipment is properly serviced every month when they cannot be operated without electricity to power them? You have been negligent as the building manager and your failure to ensure that the emergency generator is functioning at all times had put lives at risk.

I also refer to my letter dated 9 December 2004 where I complained nozzles and couplings of fire hoses at the riser room were missing on most levels. A properly maintained equipment without a working set of fire hose is as useless as using a garden hose to put out a major fire.

You do not even have the courtesy to apologise to parcel owners for the danger and inconvenience that you had caused and explain the steps you had taken to ensure that such incident will not happen again.

I am truly aghast that you as the building manager have never given a thought about the safety of parcels owners and residents here. What I am suggesting does not need to be a comprehensive plan if all that extra work of drawing such a plan is beyond your capability. **Firstly, you can at the very least, train the security**

guards to inform residents in an organized manner in the event of an emergency. Secondly, you must remove obstacles in the form of parked vehicles along the driveway to allow emergency rescue vehicles full access to the premises at all times.

I am also fully aware that the Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat is the competent authority in fighting fires but are you aware that in case of emergencies, the security guards are our first line of defence? Every second counts should a major fire break out since we do not have the benefit of living next to a fire station.

Those are the minimum that you can do yet you have not made an effort to implement them. Instead you have the effrontery to suggest that the Persatuan Penduduk-Penduduk liase with the Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat to organise fire drills. What is the point in suggesting that when you have not made any effort in fulfilling the minimum requirements on your part for such contingencies?

You had asserted that you are ***the sole member of the Management Corporation as registered proprietor of all the parcels and possesses specific powers and is responsible for managing the buildings and also the common property.*** You have contradicted yourself in suggesting that the Persatuan Penduduk-Penduduk organise fire fighting drills when you have so audaciously stated that they do not represent the interests of all the 544 parcel owners. Why should, in your own words, ***an Association representing the interest of its members*** only, carry out the functions that rightfully should be your responsibility?

Therefore I will hold you to your words and ask again that you draw up a **Contingency Plan for Fires and Emergencies** and furnish that to all parcel owners. If there is a need to liase with the Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat and other agencies or even the parcel owners and residents, it is you who should be doing it. I am sure the RM4,500.00 in monthly management fee that you are currently charging us includes maintaining security and safety.

Were you mandated by the parcel owners to build structures in the premises which have been deemed illegal by the MPPP? You were not but you built them anyway. Did you get approval from all parcel owners to spend RM633,233.10 of the sinking fund to buy unit trusts? You did not but you went ahead and purchased the unit trusts without us knowing it. Why do all those that parcel owners absolutely object but refuse to do something positive instead especially one that will benefit all residents here?

Stop passing the buck around and start getting proactive for the sake of all the 544 parcel owners and residents. It will be a real tragedy should fatalities occur because you as the party responsible in managing the buildings and common property do not bother to draw up even a simple contingency plan and educate the security guards on the proper emergency procedures. If you have even the slightest interest in the safety of all those residing here, there would really be no necessity in exchanging mails like this. It would have been initiated by you long ago and put in place already.

Arrogance and unduly exertion of clout will not solve problems. What I wish is a win-win situation for all parcel owners and the Management Corporation. This can be achieved if only you care to stop and listen to the legitimate complaints of residents and not simply brushing them off and continue wielding your “authority” with impunity like it is a God-given right.

I trust that, in your wisdom, you will be sensitive to the problems that had been put forward to you and act in a responsible manner in resolving them. After all, you are an agent acting on our behalf and it is only proper that you look after our interests first and foremost. I urge you to act immediately and draw up the mentioned plan without delay before anything untoward happens and lives are lost.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Tan

Copy: Tan Sri Dr. Koh Tsu Khoon
Chief Minister of Penang
Chief Minister's Office,
Level 28, KOMTAR,
10503 Penang.

YB Goh Kheng Sneah,
ADUN Batu Uban
16, Solok Bukit Jambul,
11900 Bayan Lepas.

Pengarah
Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat,
Negeri Pulau Pinang,
Jalan Perusahaan,
13600 Perai,

Pengarah Tanah Dan Galian (Rujukan: PTG/PB/ADUAN/124)
Pejabat Tanah Dan Galian.
Tingkat 21 & 22, KOMTAR,
10000 Pulau Pinang.

Pengarah Bangunan-Bangunan (Rujukan: JB/AD/2/1819-1)
Majlis Perbandaran Pulau Pinang
Paras 14, KOMTAR
Jalan Penang
10000 Pulau Pinang.

Chairman,
Persatuan Penduduk-Penduduk Blok 31 Taman Pekaka Pulau Pinang
31B-19-3, Lorong Pekaka Satu,
11700 Gelugor.