

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

PUBLICITY DIVISION · MINISTRY OF CULTURE · CITY HALL SINGAPORE 6

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NEW SITE FOR CENTRAL SIKH TEMPLE

21 JAN 1978

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Arising from clarification sought by Dr Toh Chin Chye, Minister for Health and MP for Rochore, the Ministry of National Development would like to issue the following statement concerning the acquisition of the Central Sikh Temple at Queen Street.

In the last 18 years, the Housing and Development Board has been providing low-cost housing complete with modern amenities and sanitation for the population. Together with other relevant Government Authorities the Housing and Development Board has also been reviewing and systematically redeveloping various parts of the Central Area which were occupied by dilapidated buildings. The area bounded by Albert Street/Waterloo Street/Middle Road/Queen Street which is predominantly occupied by pre-war shophouses is one area ripe for urban renewal.

The HDB Comprehensive Redevelopment Scheme for this area will affect the Central Sikh Temple at Queen Street. Comprehensive development compatible with good planning is not feasible if the site occupied by the Temple is to be excluded. HDB's redevelopment of the area will yield 3 blocks of 8-storey flats and one block of 19-storey flats on a 2-storey shopping podium.

Acquisition is unpopular but necessary to make way for development and progress. The Government is aware of the difficulties of the Central Sikh Temple and is helping to ameliorate those difficulties.

The current policy is not to provide alternate sites for religious buildings affected by public projects. However, as the Central Sikh Temple is the main Sikh Temple catering to all sects, the Government has decided to assist the Temple authorities find a suitable location for resiting the Temple. A site at Albert Street

was offered /2

was offered last June. This was however rejected by the Temple authorities. The HDB has identified another site at Manila Street in the vicinity of the existing Temple for its relocation. The HDB will offer this site soon. The Temple authorities have been aware all along that an alternative site will be available for re-siting the Temple.

16 JANUARY 1978

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