

1 SEPTEMBER 2004

PRESS RELEASE

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE INCIDENT AT THE MRT CIRCLE LINE WORKSITE THAT LED TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE NICOLL HIGHWAY ON 20 APRIL 2004

PROGRESS OF COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY TO DATE

The Committee of Inquiry appointed by the Minister for Manpower under Section 54 of the Factories Act (Chapter 104) to inquire into the cause of the incident at the MRT Circle Line worksite that led to the collapse of the Nicoll Highway on 20 April 2004 has completed its 20th day of hearing on 30 August 2004. A total of 103 witnesses have given evidence so far at the Inquiry. The witnesses comprised senior management and operational personnel from the various parties such as the project owner, Land Transport Authority, the main contractor, Nishimatsu-Lum Chang JV and specialist sub-contractors. About 155 witnesses in total are expected to give evidence at the Inquiry.

2 The Committee visited the accident site on 28 August 2004 at 8.00am. During the visit, the Committee tested the alarm system and had first hand feel of the means of access at the Temporary Staging Area (TSA) and the gangway at M2 area (the area adjoining the collapsed area). The Committee also inspected the strutting system at the M2 area. The site visit also included a trip to a temporary site facility at Fort Road where the Committee inspected the structural steel elements and weldments recovered from the accident site.

EXPERTS' CONFERENCE ON 1 – 3 SEPTEMBER 2004

3 The Committee had earlier ascertained that MOM and five other parties¹ have engaged their own experts to give evidence at the Inquiry. There are, to date, 18 such experts. The Committee had also approved an application by the parties to hold an Experts' Conference on the 1 to 3 September 2004. The aim of the Experts'

¹ Nishimatsu-Lum Chang JV, the Land Transport Authority, Maunsell Consultants (S) Pte Ltd, L&M Geotechnic Pte Ltd and Aviva Ltd.

Conference is to consider the issues on which expert evidence has been given on the causative factors leading to the collapse of Nicoll Highway and to establish agreement on these issues where possible. In addition, recommendations on what could have been done to avert the collapse would also be identified, and agreed where possible. Where no agreement is reached, the differences between the Experts would be included in a joint statement. The Experts' views would be considered by the Committee.

4 The Committee would resume its hearing on 6 September 2004 at 9.30am.

**Issued by:-
Secretary
Committee of Inquiry
into the Collapse of Nicoll Highway**

National Archives of Singapore