EMBARGOED UNTIL 18 JUL 2017, 5.00PM

Jointly Issued by the MND, NEA and SLA

Date: 18 July 2017

TENGAH AIR BASE TO BE EXPANDED TO FREE UP PAYA LEBAR AIR BASE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

1 As announced by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the 2013 National Day Rally, the relocation of the Paya Lebar Air Base (PLAB) will free up 800ha of prime land in the north-east region. The potential space that will be freed up is larger than the current Bishan or Ang Mo Kio town. It will provide for new residential homes, offices, factories and parks to make Singapore even more liveable and vibrant. In addition, the relocation of PLAB will remove height restrictions around Paya Lebar, and over an even bigger area stretching all the way down to Marina South, allowing for future taller developments in these areas.

2 To effect this relocation, the Government will have to expand Tengah Air Base (TAB). The expansion of TAB will entail the acquisition of several private land plots, the exhumation of graves and road re-alignment works. These are needed to accommodate some of the re-located assets and facilities from PLAB, and to ensure the RSAF's operational readiness.

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3 In developing this plan, the Government has considered all alternatives, taking into account our national defence and security needs, as well as the overall benefits of moving PLAB in the longer-term. Government agencies have, as far as possible, tried to minimise the impact of these works, and affected stakeholders will be given advance notice to make alternative arrangements.

Land Acquisition in Murai

4 Four plots of private land (occupied by two ornamental fish farms, one food fish farm, and a nursery), located immediately west of TAB, will need to be acquired for the expansion of TAB.

5 The Singapore Land Authority has gazetted the acquisition of the affected land today. SLA, AVA and NParks will work closely with the affected owners and assist them through the process.

Exhumation of Graves

6 45,500 Chinese graves and 35,000 Muslim graves in Choa Chu Kang Cemetery (CCKC) will need to be exhumed, which NEA will undertake as part of the ongoing phased exhumation of graves in CCKC. A map of the affected plots can be found in ***Annex A.***

7 Claims and Registration for 45,000 Chinese and 5,000 Muslim graves which have met the minimum burial period of 15 years will commence in September 2017. The notices of exhumation for the remaining 500 Chinese graves and 30,000 Muslim graves will be issued at a later date after the graves have met the 15-year burial period. Please see ***Annex B and Annex C*** for more information about making a claim and the exhumation process for the affected Chinese graves and Muslim graves respectively.

Lim Chu Kang Heritage Road

8 The footprint of the expanded TAB affects the existing Lim Chu Kang Road (including a portion of the Heritage Road[1] at its northern segment), and the road will need to be re-aligned. Agencies are studying the exact impact on the road, and possible mitigation strategies, which includes transplanting the trees to the new road.

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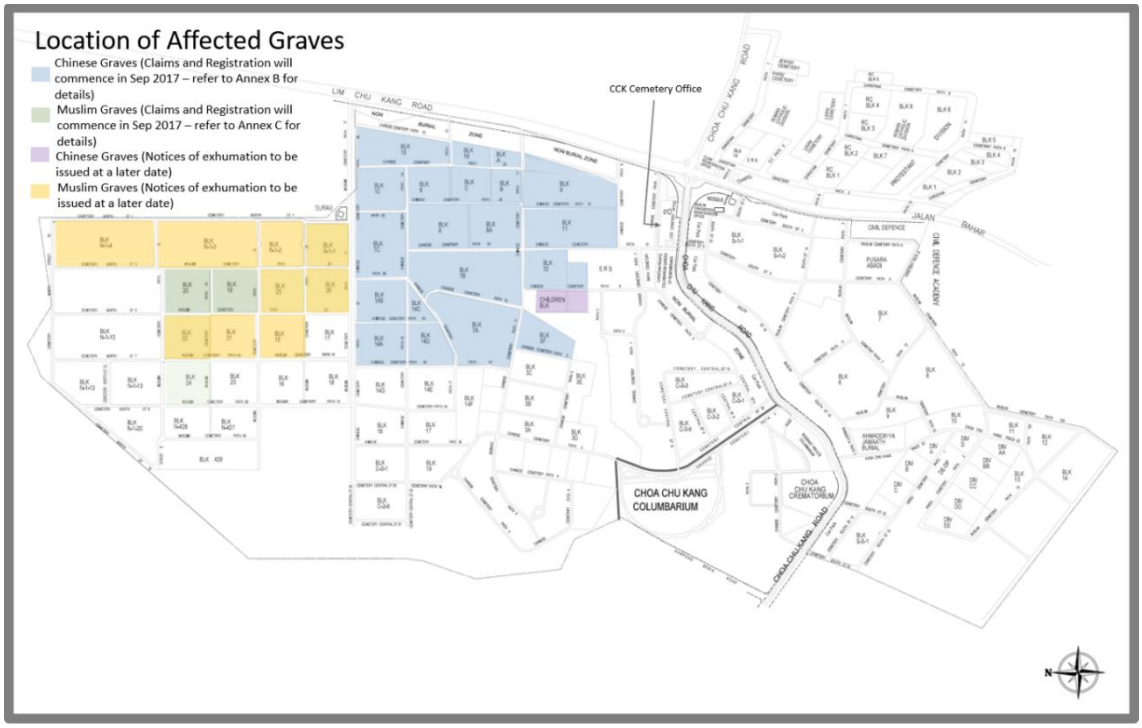
[1] Heritage Roads are characterised by their lush tropical forest ambience, and feature tall, mature green walls of natural vegetation along its length, as well as a roof of overarching tree canopies.

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ANNEX A

LOCATION MAP OF GRAVES AFFECTED BY THE EXPANSION OF TENGAH AIRBASE



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ANNEX B

UPCOMING EXHUMATION FOR CHOA CHU KANG CEMETERY CHINESE GRAVES AFFECTED BY THE EXPANSION OF TENGAH AIRBASE

- The 45,000 graves at the Choa Chu Kang (CCK) Chinese Cemetery to be exhumed are dated between 1955 and 1999. Claims and Registration for these Chinese graves will commence in September 2017. The affected graves have met the burial period of 15 years. The Government's current policy limits the burial period of all graves to 15 years.

- Newspaper notices to alert the next-of-kin of those buried in the affected blocks of the Chinese cemetery will be published in September 2017 in Lianhe Zaobao and The Straits Times. Next-of-kin who wish to claim the remains can use the Claim Registration Form in the notice to make their claims, or do so online through the NEA website (www.nea.gov.sg).

- For the affected Chinese graves, the NEA encourages those who wish to claim the remains of their next-of-kin buried in the affected blocks of the Chinese cemetery to do so by September 2019. Physical exhumation will commence from the fourth quarter of 2019 for the affected graves.

- Next-of-kin can also claim the remains of other deceased family members buried outside the affected Chinese blocks provided that the latter are related to the deceased buried within the affected blocks under one of the following relationships: (i) Grandparents, (ii) Parents, (iii) Siblings, (iv) Spouse, (v) Son/daughter or (vi) Grandchildren. For the exhumation of a grave that is outside the affected blocks within the CCK Cemetery, an additional fee will have to be made payable to the NEA-appointed exhumation contractor. Interested parties may seek more information from NEA.

- Signboards will be displayed at the Chinese Cemetery to indicate the location of graves to be exhumed.

- The details will be made known when the exhumation notice is published in September 2017.

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ANNEX C

UPCOMING EXHUMATION FOR CHOA CHU KANG CEMETERY MUSLIM GRAVES AFFECTED BY THE EXPANSION OF TENGAH AIRBASE

- The 5,000 graves at the Choa Chu Kang (CCK) Muslim Cemetery Blocks 19 and 20 to be exhumed are dated between 1998 and 2000. Claims and Registration for these Muslim graves will commence in September 2017. The affected graves have met the minimum burial period of 15 years. The Government's current policy limits the burial period of all graves to 15 years.

- NEA has appointed MUIS to carry out the registration, exhumation and re-interment services of these graves in September 2017. More details on the exhumation of the remaining affected Muslim graves will be announced by MUIS in phases at a later date.

- Newspaper notices to alert the next-of-kin of those buried in the affected blocks of the Muslim cemetery will be published in September 2017 in Berita Harian and The Straits Times.

- For the affected Muslim graves, the NEA and MUIS encourage those who wish to claim the remains of their next-of-kin buried in the affected blocks of the Muslim cemetery to do so by September 2018. Following which, physical exhumation will commence.

- Next-of-kin can also make claims for the remains of other family members (buried outside the affected Blocks 19 and 20, for at least 15 years) to be exhumed and re-interred at the same time in the same or adjacent grave plots provided that they are related to the deceased in the affected blocks as follows: -

    a) Father/Mother of the principal deceased
    b) Father-in-law/Mother-in-law of the principal deceased
    c) Paternal and Maternal Grandfather/Grandmother of the principal deceased
    d) Paternal and Maternal Grandfather/Grandmother of the spouse of the principal deceased
    e) Brothers/Sisters of the principal deceased
    f) Brothers-in-law/Sisters-in-law of the principal deceased
    g) Spouse of the principal deceased
    h) Sons/Daughters of the principal deceased
    i) Sons-in-law/Daughters-in-law of the principal deceased
    j) Grandsons/Granddaughters of the principal deceased
    k) Grandsons-in-law /Granddaughters-in-law of the principal deceased

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- For the exhumation of a grave that is outside the affected blocks within the CCK Cemetery, an additional fee will have to be made payable to the MUIS-appointed exhumation contractor. Interested parties may seek more information from MUIS.

- Signboards will be displayed at Blocks 19 and 20 of the Muslim Cemetery to indicate the location of graves to be exhumed.

- The details will be made known when the exhumation notice is published in September 2017.