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POLICE HAVE STEPPED UP ACTION AGAINST ERRANT HEAVY VEHICLES DRIVERS



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We refer to Mr Yeo's letter "Policing roads: Has policy changed?" (Straits Times, 27 Nov 2009) where he shared observations on the traffic conditions of roads in the vicinity of Pasir Panjang Road.

Traffic Police (TP) take a very strong stance against traffic violations committed by heavy vehicle drivers as any accidents involving such vehicles could lead to severe consequences. Unless overtaking, heavy vehicles, having lower vehicle speed limits, are required to keep to the leftmost lanes at all times so that they do not hog the roads. Motorists who fail to keep to the leftmost lane would be committing an offence that carries a composition amount of up to \$100.

In addition, motorists who travel over the prescribed vehicle speed limit by up to 40km/h is committing an offence that carries a composition amount of up to \$200 and up to 8 demerit points. Offenders who exceed the prescribed speed limit by more than 40km/h will be prosecuted in court and be given between 12 and 24 demerit points. If convicted, they will be fined up to \$1,000, or jailed up to 3 months. In the case of a second or subsequent offence, they will be fined up to \$2,000, or jailed up to 6 months.

Since 2008, Traffic Police have stepped up our enforcement efforts against traffic violations committed by heavy vehicle drivers. In fact, TP issued about 3000 summonses to drivers of prime movers, tipper trucks and trailers for various moving offences such as speeding in 2008, compared to 1160 summonses in 2007. In the first 9 months of 2009, more than 2700 summonses have been issued to heavy vehicle drivers. Such enforcement will continue to be conducted regularly.

Apart from the regular enforcement operations, since May 2008, TP also started regular dedicated high-visibility road blocks in the day with the Land Transport Authority (LTA) along roads commonly travelled by heavy vehicle drivers.

As part of LTA's measures to improve safety of road users, we have placed traffic cones and signs to alert motorists of the Circle Line temporary traffic diversion along the stretch of West Coast Highway abutting the Haw Par Villa MRT station. These cones are necessary as they help to minimise traffic accidents by encouraging motorists to slow down and drive more cautiously when they approached that stretch of road. Since the implementation of these cones, we have observed fewer accidents.

As the Circle Line works progress towards completion, we expect to reinstate West Coast Highway to its original alignment in the second half of 2010. Meanwhile, we will continue to monitor the traffic flow around the area, especially during peak hour, and make necessary adjustment when the need arises. Concurrently, LTA is studying improvement proposals for Pasir Panjang Road.

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