



Mango Tree at Gedung Kuning & Privacy Policy on Gedung Kuning website

Julina Khusaini <julina@mhf.org.sg>

Mon, Jun 25, 2012 at 3:35 PM

To: Hidayah Amin <hidayah.amin@gmail.com>, "Norsaleen SALLEH (NHB)" <Norsaleen_SALLEH@nhb.gov.sg>, Zulkarnine Hafiz <zulkarnine@figolive.com>, Masmunah Abdullah <mas@figolive.com>

Cc: "ZURAIDAH ABDULLAH (SPF)" <zuraidah_abdullah@spf.gov.sg>, Khir Johari <khir19@gmail.com>

Dear Hidayah

I write to update you on the various actions that have been taken to address the matter raised in relation to the mango tree at Gedung Kuning.

2 On 30 May 2012, two officers from NParks (Ms Loh Chay Hwee, Head, NParks (Urban Gardening/Heritage Tree Secretariat & Ms Goh Gan Khing, Manager, Urban Gardening) visited No 73 Sultan Gate to conduct their inspection and evaluation of the mango tree. After their inspection, it was found that the mango tree did not meet the criteria for it to be designated as a "heritage tree". We understand that NParks had subsequently informed you of the outcome of their evaluation via email on 31 May 2012, stating the reasons why it did not meet the criteria to be considered as a heritage tree.

3 Subsequent to this, MHF then engaged an arborist – an expert in the care and maintenance of trees to evaluate the current structural stability of the tree. The appointed arborist, TP Arbo Care Pte Ltd, is one of the experts that had been recommended by NParks. They did their inspection on 6 June 2012 and submitted their report on 8 June 2012. Their findings are attached, for your reference. Paras 4 to 6 (pictures 3a, 3b and 3c) in the report states that:-

- It is observed that there are two big girdling roots and one small girdling root strangling the tree at the tree base. The girdling roots if not removed will eventually kill the tree or cause the tree to uproot.
- The girdling roots are of 0.25m, 0.2m and 0.05m in diameter respectively. The cutting of these girdling roots may cause the tree to uproot or it may introduce decay into the root system and result in the tree death or uprooting in future.
- Due to the close proximity of the tree to the building, it is recommended that the tree be removed.

4 Following that, we have also sought further advice from NParks if the tree could be trimmed or transplanted to other areas within the compound of the premises. We even explored the possibility of donating the tree to Gardens By the Bay, where it could probably thrive better in a more natural setting. They have a segment which features the flora and fauna usually found in Malay kampongs. Nonetheless, given the evaluation by the expert, NParks has advised that it is also not possible and advisable to transplant the tree elsewhere, especially since the probability of the tree uprooting as a result of cutting the two big girdling roots that are "strangling" the tree, is very high. Moreover, due to the close proximity of the tree to the building, there is a potential damage to the building and injury to members of the public, in the event the tree uproots, unexpectedly.

5 In view of the above circumstances, and in the interest of public safety and the long term preservation of the conserved building, the Management has reviewed all the inputs, feedback and recommendation and made the decision to have the tree removed from the premises.

I forward for your information.

Thanks and best regards.

From: Hidayah Amin [mailto:hidayah.amin@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, 13 May, 2012 2:44 PM

To: Julina Khusaini; Norsaleen SALLEH (NHB); Zulkarnine Hafiz; Masmunah Abdullah

Cc: ZURAIDAH ABDULLAH (SPF); Khir Johari

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 **Tree Assessment report- 73 Sultan Gate.pdf**
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