

Why massive Tekka Centre needs 16 months to upgrade

I REFER to Mr David Soh's letter "Why so long for simple repair jobs?" (May 9). In every project under the Hawker Centres Upgrading Programme, the National Environment Agency engages professional building consultants to undertake project management.

For Tekka Centre, our consultant had determined that 16 months was necessary for the upgrading in view of the centre's size and the scope of work needed. Tekka Centre is one of the biggest hawker centres in Singapore with more than 550 hawker stalls and HDB shops.

The project was contracted out with the upgrading period stipulated in the tender. Apart from the work mentioned by Mr Soh, the upgrading encompasses reconfiguring the market section and building bigger slab stalls, upgrading toilet facilities and expanding their capacity, building a new central dishwashing and hand-washing area, replacing floor tiles, wall tiles and sanitary pipes, electrical rewiring, enlarging the existing bin centre, upgrading the lift system and more. Structural works such as piling and beam-strengthening works are also required.

This being so, we seek the public's patience and understanding. The public can patronise the temporary centre located between Northumberland Road and Race Course Road for their marketing and dining needs.

We assure Mr Soh that the agency will ensure an optimal timeline for each upgrading project, and we thank him for his feedback.

Chan Wai San (Ms)

**Director, Hawkers Department,
National Environment Agency**