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**SMRT emergency evacuation exercise at Boon Lay Extension
highlights importance of vigilance and preparedness**

1. The usually quiet neighbourhood around Pioneer MRT Station was abuzz with activities this morning, as more than 500 residents of Southwest Community Development Council joined SMRT staff and students from Singapore Management University in an evacuation exercise under the SMRT Community Emergency Preparedness Programme.

2. The exciting exercise scenario encompasses an arsonist attack-cum-bombing of a westbound train traveling between Pioneer (先驱) and Joo Koon (裕群) MRT stations – two new stations of the Boon Lay Extension along the East-West Line. As the event unfolds, there are also reports of groups of commuters fainting on the station platform at Joo Koon MRT Station.

3. Through this exercise scenario, participants learnt how to conduct an emergency detrainment and evacuation of the train, while emergency response teams from the Singapore Civil Defence Force and the Singapore Police Force familiarised themselves with the new MRT stations. Smoke machines were used to create a more realistic environment for participants and to impress upon them the importance of vigilance and preparedness in case of an emergency situation in the MRT system.

4. Mr Choy Kin Chong, Deputy Director of Security and Emergency Planning (蔡建仲, 副总监, 保安与紧急策划) of SMRT said, “SMRT believes in the importance of staying vigilant and being prepared at all times for emergencies. This is why we are the first

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public transport provider to launch an integrated transport security training programme more than two years ago.

5. Today's exercise is one avenue to prepare SMRT's staff, the emergency response teams, as well as our commuters on how to react in emergency situations. It is especially timely since SMRT is now full steam ahead in our preparation for the opening of the Boon Lay Extension."

6. Among the participants was 48-year-old Madam Aisah, a resident who lives in Jurong West. Madam Aisah said, "I have been taking the MRT trains daily to work and did not know of the emergency procedures. Today's exercise allowed me to understand how to react in such situations. I think the knowledge is very useful for people who commute by the MRT trains and SMRT is doing a good job in educating the public."

7. Since its inception in December 2006, the SMRT Community Emergency Preparedness Programme has trained over 6,700 participants, including grassroots leaders, school uniformed groups, students and Police volunteers. The SCEP Programme was developed by SMRT as a 3P partnership (Private-Public-People) in close collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Land Transport Authority.

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Annex 1

Photographs from the SMRT emergency evacuation exercise at Boon Lay Extension, held at Pioneer MRT Station on 8 February 2009, 9.30am



Participants evacuating using the detrainment ramp



"Injured" passengers being attended to by SCDF officers at Joo Koon MRT Station