



Ref no: BME/13/08

391 New Bridge Road #03-25
Police Cantonment Complex Blk A
Singapore 088762
1800-236 9999

16 April 2008

Dear Community Partners,

CRIME PREVENTION ADVISORY – LIFT ROBBERY & SNATCH THEFT

This letter serves to alert you of a recent spate of lift robbery and snatch theft cases at residential locations such as Jalan Bukit Merah, Kim Tian Rd, Jalan Minyak, Jalan Membina and Jalan Kukoh housing estates.

2 These cases took place inside the lifts or outside the lift lobby of the above-mentioned housing estates. The culprit would strike in the evening, targeting at female victims, mainly the elderly females for their handbags, purses, cash and gold chains. These victims were alone when the crimes occurred.

3 The culprit would either brandish or point a sharp object or a knife at the victims to demand for their valuables. There were also cases where the culprit would snatch away the valuables from the victim once the lift door opened at a certain floor and fled away from the scene. Other common mode of operation used by the culprit includes approaching the victims from the front, followed by grabbing or pushing victims to the ground before snatching their valuables and fleeing away.

4 While Police are investigating into these crimes, it is important for residents like you to remain alert and prevent yourself from becoming the next victim by adopting the following crime prevention measures:

- a. Always be alert and attentive to the surroundings. If you suspect that you are being followed, remain calm and proceed to the nearest open business premises, crowded area or call the Police to seek help;
- b. Avoid taking the lift alone and arrange with your family members to accompany you especially during the night;
- c. Avoid taking short cuts through dimly lit, quiet and secluded places;
- d. Do not flaunt or expose your cash / handphone unnecessarily in public view ;
- e. Keep only sufficient amount of cash as change; and
- f. Do not carry large sums of money.

5 However, if you are confronted by a robber(s), you are reminded to:

- a. Remain calm;
- b. Do not put up any resistance;

CRIME PREVENTION – A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

- c. Take note of the culprit(s)' physical appearance such as clothing, height and other distinctive features like tattoos or dyed hair;
- d. Take note of the culprit(s)' direction and mode of escape;
- e. Call the Police as soon as it is safe to do so.

6 Please do not hesitate to contact Bukit Merah East NPC at **1800-2369999** or the Police hotline at **1800 – 2250000**, if you have any crime information or require any police assistance.

Yours sincerely,



**DSP ONG ENG BAN
COMMANDING OFFICER
BUKIT MERAH EAST NPC
CENTRAL POLICE DIVISION**