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PHOTO: NATESH RAJELANSEZHIAN

Cops called into Little India after movie cancellation irks crowd

SINGAPORE – The police were called in last night after some members of a crowd of more than 100 — mostly foreign workers — got agitated when a movie premiere at REX Cinemas was cancelled at the last minute.

At least 10 police officers were seen controlling the crowd, as confusion reigned and frustration boiled over for some, who had queued for hours to catch the Tamil movie *Veeram*.

Construction worker T Shanmugam said he took leave to queue for the tickets and had made less money because he did not work. He said he had been queuing for 12 hours, from 6am yesterday. Another moviegoer, who only wanted to be known as Mr Sear-eavan, said he had been queuing from 10am to 6pm to buy the tickets.

The cinema had sold tickets for a 9pm and a 12.15am screening, but the staff at the cinema said they did not receive the digital password from India to air the movie.

At about 10.40pm, an employee from REX Cinemas told disappointed moviegoers that the screening was cancelled and that there would be three movie timings today — 11am, 6pm and midnight — which they could choose from, or they could also opt for a refund. “They got angry, but it’s not our fault,” said Mr Santhirasgarn, a REX Cinemas representative.

A police spokesperson said it received a call at about 9.02pm and that officers who arrived at the scene advised the parties involved — affected viewers and company staff — accordingly. “The company managed to resolve the matter amicably with the affected viewers. The viewers left the place thereafter. No incident was reported and no further police assistance was required,” she said.

NG JING YNG AND AMANDA LEE

EQUAL WEIGHTAGE GIVEN TO LEADERSHIP, ACHIEVEMENT, PARTICIPATION AND SERVICE

MOE revises framework for recognising CCA achievements

TIARA HAMARIAN
tiarabtemh@mediacorp.com.sg

SINGAPORE – Mr Bernard Chew, Principal of Bowen Secondary School, has long sought to foster a spirit of service at the school by encouraging his students to do community service. But when it came to assessing students’ performance in co-curricular programmes, service carried a smaller weightage compared with other domains in the grading framework.

This is set to change under the revised LEAPS framework announced by the Ministry of Education (MOE) yesterday. The framework, used in secondary schools, awards students grades for their co-curricular achievements. The bonus points earned from top grades can be used when computing net aggregate scores for entry into junior colleges, polytechnics and Institutes of Technical Education.

Previously, more weightage was given to the Leadership and Achievement domains. For example, students could be awarded up to 12 points if

Shifting focus from results

● Tampines Secondary School principal Balamurugan Krishnasamy said replacing grades with bands shifts the focus away from results. “The descriptors ... better validate a student’s effort and involvement,” he said.

they held formal leadership positions in schools. But they could obtain only a maximum of five points for 100 hours of community service.

Under the new LEAPS 2.0 — which will start with this year’s Secondary 1 cohort — equal weightage is given to all four domains: Leadership, Achievement, Participation and Service. This is to “rebalance the recognition and students’ participation across domains”, the MOE said.

Another change is replacing the grades awarded to students — ranging from A1 to Ungraded — with three bands: Excellent, Good and Fair. To attain the Excellent banding — which earns a student the maximum two bonus points — a student must attain a certain level in all four domains. Each domain has five levels of attainment. Students will also get more recognition for achievements outside of co-curricular activities (CCAs) and school.

The ministry has also dropped the Enrichment domain — which recognised students for taking part in activities like seminars — from the frame-

work, although participation in these activities will still be reflected in the report card.

About 60 per cent of students attain the maximum of two bonus points each year. This is expected to remain under the revised framework, said the MOE.

While students will now have to do well in all domains to achieve an Excellent banding, Mr Abdul Mannan, Principal of Ang Mo Kio Secondary School, pointed out that the revised framework recognises a broader range of achievements, giving students more opportunities to distinguish themselves. For instance, those who did not represent their schools in inter-school competitions found it hard to attain points, but under the updated framework, activities like inter-class competitions will be recognised.

Bowen Secondary’s Mr Chew concurred. “There’s greater emphasis on service and that’s definitely important for our youths today,” he added.

New applied learning to future-proof young S’poreans

SINGAPORE – Five industries with the “most immediate and urgent” manpower needs will spearhead the shift towards new applied learning approaches in the polytechnics and Institutes of Technical Education (ITEs).

These are the early childhood, healthcare and nursing, aerospace, building and construction, and manufacturing sectors, said Senior Minister of State (Education and Law) Indranee Rajah yesterday on the sidelines of a town hall meeting with 150 polytechnic and ITE students.

Ms Indranee, who is chairing a committee to review the poly and ITE education system, said applied

learning - where work experiences are deeply intertwined with the learning process — will future proof young Singaporeans against a changing global landscape.

Applied learning will be a feature in all industries, but the five sectors will be the preliminary focus due to their manpower shortages, she added.

Among countries the committee is studying, Ms Indranee singled out Germany, where students would spend one to two days a week in vocational schools and their remaining time in companies. “They (Germany) try to have a very close relationship between practical learning and theoretical learning,” she added.

To this end, the committee will be exploring several areas, such as recruiting more employers as internship partners and increasing the number of apprenticeship spaces. Singapore Polytechnic principal Tan Choon Shian, who sits on the committee, also flagged the possibility of tweaking the existing curriculum for more learning to occur at the workplace.

During the 90-minute dialogue session with the students, Ms Indranee reiterated the benefits of applied learning, which includes providing students with employment opportunities even without a university degree.

She urged students to consider different pathways, such as working first

before pursuing higher education. Republic Polytechnic student Bryan Kio had financial concerns for continuing and education programmes, but Ms Indranee added that the committee will look into funding options for this.

Summing up what the committee aims to accomplish through their recommendations, Ms Indranee said: “The question is can you still achieve those outcomes without necessarily having to do an immediate university path or whether you can do it without even having to go through a university path at all”.

The review committee will be embarking on further engagement sessions and study trips in the months ahead, before making their recommendations in the second half of the year. **NG JING YNG**