

Call to shut down cement plant

HAZARD: Parents claim that a cement plant near a school is affecting the health and safety of their children

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PARENTS are at their wits' end over a cement plant that has been operating next to SK Seri Setia for years.

They have raised concerns about the dust and noise pollution and health hazards the students are exposed to daily.

Sujartha Nair, 40, claimed her two children attending the school in Jalan Kuchai Lama are now asthmatic due to the dust from the site.

"Although their asthma attacks are under control, I feel that the plant should not be operating here as it has brought on health problems to other children as well. My children have to skip school when their asthma attacks get bad.

"The road in front of the school is particularly congested in the afternoon when parents pick up their children after school and it is made worse by

cement lorries coming in and out of the site," she said.

Iris Hamilton, 52, whose three children also attend the school, shared the same sentiments.

"Two of my children have developed asthma and have to go for regular check-ups and be on medication.

"The cement lorries plying the road here have not only made traffic congestion worse, they also leave dust trails every time they drive past.

"The access road now has potholes and the classrooms have to be cleaned everyday, especially those in the block nearest to the plant."

The parents have highlighted the issue to the MCA Federal Territory Liaison Committee Secretariat representative Banie Chin, who is also a member of City Hall's advisory board.

Chin said the school had previously lodged a complaint to City Hall and the committee over the matter.

"We were made to understand



"The road in front of the school is particularly congested in the afternoon when parents pick up their children after school..."

Sujartha Nair,
Parent with two children attending SK Seri Setia



The **cement plant** also serves as storage area for the lorries and cement bags. (Inset) A cement lorry coming out of the plant located next to the **school** (in background). Pix by Amir Irsyad Omar

that the plant was meant for the Stormwater Management And Road Tunnel (SMART tunnel) construction which was completed in 2007.

The plant is operating on a temporary permit and since the construction of the tunnel is over, it

should be closed down.

"City Hall should be more selective in approving plants like this and should reject applications if they are located next to a school.

"We were also told that there are some 400 complaints on health-re-

lated problems faced by the students. Some 800 students attend the school (it only has a morning session)."

The parents also handed a petition to mayor, Datuk Ahmad Phasal Talib, through the secretariat.