

**Newspaper: The New Paper**

**Date: 15 April 2006**

**Title: Bus driver drove off without me**

ON 6 Apr at about 6.05pm, I waited for bus no 51 at the Chinatown Point bus-stop.

When the bus (SBS 3731) arrived, three other buses were in front of it. People rushed to board the No 51 bus. But I had to wait for it to enter the bus bay as I was carrying two big bags and I am nine months pregnant.

When the three buses moved off, I flagged No 51 bus as it entered the bay.

The driver saw me waving frantically but he ignored me and drove off.

This is most unfair as I was at the designated spot for boarding.

Wirda Ningseh Samsudin

**Reply from SBS Transit**

I refer to the letter "Bus driver drove off without me" by Mrs Wirda Ningseh Samsudin dated 15 April 2006.

We have investigated the matter and spoken to the Bus Captain in question.

Based on Mrs Wirda's description, the alleged bus-stop should be the one opposite Hong Leong Complex near Chinatown Point along Upper Cross Street. This bus stop is situated along a row of shop houses and does not have a bus stop shelter, nor a bus bay. Buses have to keep right into the second lane to proceed straight to OG, towards the direction of Havelock Road after they have called at this bus-stop.

According to the Bus Captain, while his bus was behind three buses at the bus-stop, he did pick up passengers who had walked towards it. He then continued to move along the left lane following behind the three buses but did not see anyone at the bus stop flagging for his bus, hence he proceeded to drive the bus out to the second lane intending to go straight. At that moment, he saw Mrs Wirda flagging his bus but it was too late as the bus was already out of the left lane and he could not stop for Mrs Wirda due to safety reasons.

We have since counselled the Bus Captain to look out properly for passengers even though he had already picked up passengers earlier. We would like to convey our sincere apologies to Mrs Wirda for the incident and assure her that the Bus Captain did not ignore her on purpose.

We hope this clarifies.

Yours sincerely,

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