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Trauma doctors at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) are seeing a rise in injuries among personal mobility device (PMD) riders, according to a study conducted over a 33-month period.

In the first nine months of this year, 79 PMD riders were admitted to TTSH for injuries – an average of nine per month. This compared with 47 last year, or seven per month; and 47 in 2017, or five per month.

This translates to a nearly 70 per cent increase in two years.

The figures come on the back of a national study completed earlier this year by Dr Wong Ting Hway, a general surgeon at Singapore General Hospital (SGH).

Both studies did not cover third-party injuries (such as pedestrians or cyclists in a collision with PMDs).

In the TTSH study, the hospital found that more than half of the PMD riders it treated for injuries were between 20 and 39 years old – similar to the median age of 33 in the SGH study.

TTSH said head and neck injuries accounted for the highest percentage of cases at 41 per cent, followed by external injuries such as abrasions and lacerations (26 per cent) and facial injuries (12 per cent).

A large percentage of those hospitalised had serious injuries, and more than half of them were injured after they had skidded. In the period studied, the hospital witnessed six fatalities.

In February, the speed limit for PMDs on footpaths was cut from 15kmh to 10kmh.

Dr Teo Li Tserng, director of Trauma Services at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, told The Straits Times: “What stood out is that despite PMDs being relatively slow, the severity of injuries related to them is no less than those incurred by motorcyclists.”

Dr Teo noted too that the injured tend to be “young people who should be up and about contributing to society”. He said “one-third” of these injured riders went away with “long-term disabilities”.

Dr Teo added that these cases have increased the hospital’s load, “but it’s something we have to deal with.”
In Bishan, Madam Hasana, who is the longest-serving resident in the Katong estate, will have to say goodbye to her home when her lease is up in December next year. (PHOTO: MARK CHEONG)

37 families to be affected as SLA reclaims state land in Katong

Residents to move out by end-December next year for major restoration and repair works to be carried out

For the past 44 years, 60-year-old Madam Hasana has hung up her apron and attended her daily family celebrations – inviting up to 50 family members, friends and neighbours.

The next year’s celebrations could be the last to be held in the place she has called home for 44 years.

The Singapore Land Authority (SLA) has issued a notice to the 37 families living in her estate in Katong, to move out by the end of December next year so that major restoration and repair works can be carried out.

For Madam Hasana, who has 10 children, 33 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren, this means she will have to say goodbye to the home she has known for more than half her life.

“Every day I eat my breakfast, opening window, sit there and think about my children, and today, my heart is so foolishly but now I have to move away. I have my trees. I have planted them,” said Madam Hasana, who has been living with him in a corner of the house since 1975.

The Singapore Land Authority (SLA) has issued a notice to the 37 families living in her estate in Katong to move out by end-December next year so that major restoration and repair works can be carried out.

By this time next year, most of Madam Hasana’s neighbours would have moved out of the estate. Her home in the back room of the cluster of four black-and-white houses, across Singapore’s oldest street, will be the second-to-last to go.

Loans are on a two-year tenancy period and were typically range from $2,000 to $3,000, depending on the flat.

ESSA and residents whoenity their tenancies would be given new tenancy ending in early 2020.

Resident Vivian Ng, 60, said she was surprised to hear that the estate would be going back to the state.

In the meantime, SLA and the estate’s managing agent Knights Frank Property Asset Management are in touch with residents with relocation matters, including offering rental options of alternative properties, she added.

An SLA spokesman said that up to 300 of the 37 tenants in the estate will move out in early 2020. Residents have been given a choice of alternative housing.

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Erie Yia is a case in point.

The 46-year-old business owner was crossing a street at an carriageway in November 2017 when he avoided two pedestrians. He could have been killed as he was crossing the junction.

Explaining his life-saving actions, Erie said that the road had a divider and a zebra crossing for pedestrians as he turned right to make a quick turn.

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Rider skidded trying to avoid two pedestrians

Erie Yia is a case in point.

Senior Minister of State for Transport Lam Pin Min said yesterday that the proposed laws will be suited to the Singaporean context.

Despite PMDs being common in many countries, what stands out is that rider behaviour does not improve.

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Malaysia's Najib

A 37-year-old man has been convicted for failing to declare the movement of $18.9 million in cash in and out of Singapore without the necessary licence or permit.

The police said they were alerted on Feb 1 on last year that Lee had arranged to smuggle $330,000 into Singapore via Tuas Checkpoint.

Lee was stopped for a routine check when entering into Singapore, the Malaysia-registered car was searched. Lee was found to be carrying a bag filled with cash, totalling S$336,000.

Police said that investigations also showed Lee had committed 25 similar offences between June 2017 and February 2019.

Lee, who is a Malaysian national, is the director of I&M Builders, a Malaysian construction company dealing with infrastructure work.

Lee claimed that the network he had built into Singapore was his saving and money from the sale of properties in Malaysia.

The money he took out of Singapore included his windfall and winnings from FIN and Marina Bay Sands, amongst others.

Lee was convicted in the state court last Thurs-

Anyone convicted of not declaring the physical movement of cash exceeding S$20,000 in a 24-hour period in and out of Singapore, can be fined up to S$100,000, jailed for up to three years, or both.

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