



De La Salle Santiago Zobel School

Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City, Philippines 1780, Tel. No.: 771-DLSZ Website: www.dlszobel.edu.ph

December 26, 2014

EPIFANIO S. JOAQUIN
President
Ayala Alabang Village Association
Narra St. Ayala Alabang Village
Muntinlupa City

Dear Mr. Joaquin,

Greetings in Christ!

This is in response to your letter dated 16 December 2014 regarding the Proposed Color-coding Scheme.

We strongly disagree with the statement in your letter that the traffic situation in the Ayala Alabang Village has "worsened". We dispute your count that the vehicles that entered the village increased to "1,787 vehicles". Based on our last count on November 25, 2014, the number of school bound vehicles entering all gates of the Village from 6:00am to 8:00am was at 1,233. The most number of vehicles that entered the Village at one time was pegged at 455 and these vehicles entered the village between 6:30am-7:00am. Certainly, there has been a remarkable improvement in the traffic flow around the school perimeter through our efforts this 2014.

Based on our records, and pursuant to our undertaking, we have complied with your request to keep our student population below 4,200. Presently, there are only 4,188 students enrolled in our school contrary to your claim of 4,300.

We believe that it will be in best interest of the village to continue addressing our concerns in a multilateral approach. Moreover, as you are aware, the following measures have already been implemented by De La Salle Zobel ("DLSZ") to improve the flow of traffic along Madrigal and University Avenue -

April to June 2014 – Widening of school gates and inner roads to accommodate entry of vehicles and ease the flow of traffic (Cost: 4.25 million);

June 2014 to present – Hiring of additional ten guards to manage traffic in the morning and in the afternoon (Cost: 100,000.00/month);

September 2014 – Changing of class schedule for the High School from 7:30am to 8:00am to lessen the bulk of incoming vehicular traffic in the morning and in the afternoon;

September 2014 – Hiring of Traffic Management consultants to study the situation and give professional recommendations to ease the traffic;



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October 13-23, 2014 – Hiring of additional two tourist buses for the experimental bus-ferrying of high school students from ATC to DLSZ and back to lessen also the bulk of incoming vehicular traffic in the morning and in the afternoon

(Cost: 194,000.00); and

December 2014 – Sending out of survey to parents to gather data needed in preparation for the Clustering of school bus providers and car poolers

Thus, there is no basis for your statement that DLSZ “lack[s] the genuine desire to create change that will improve the situation”. In truth, DLSZ has implemented and incurred unbudgeted expenses to better the flow of traffic in the Village.

It is also not true that “parents have prioritized their convenience over the welfare of the affected homeowners”. Certainly, it is the safety and security of the children that is of our utmost priority. Moreover, the Village must also consider that DLSZ is, as every homeowner, also a lot owner which pays its association dues every year. For 2014 alone, the school paid a total of Php 943,579.20.

The AAVA Board’s decision to implement the color-coding system by 3 February 2015 comes at a time when we are still finalizing the carpooling and clustering system of our school bus providers. We are still actively finalizing these carpooling and clustering systems again in pursuit of our common goal minimizing the number of vehicles entering the village. In view of the foregoing, we hope that you would reconsider your decision on the color-coding scheme and suspend its implementation especially since a haphazard implementation thereof may pose serious risks to the health and safety of our students. DLSZ looks forward to continuing our service to the village as it has been doing for thirty-six years.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernard S. OCA".

BR. BERNARD S. OCA FSC

President

De La Salle Santiago Zobel School

cc:

ARTURO BRIONES, Village Manager, AAVA
AAVA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
CHAIRMAN RUBEN BAES, Baranggay Ayala Alabang
MAYOR JAIME R. FRESNEDI, Muntinlupa City