

# GROUND ZERO

CITIZEN JOURNALISM IN ACTION



## Pavement workshop endangers passers-by

**S**TOMP contributor Ben said this workshop at Block 3007, Ubi Road 1, has extended its operation onto the pavement.

He said, in an e-mail to the citizen media website: "Rubber tubes, gas tanks, protection masks and other equipment are all lying around the place. "Sometimes, welding and sawing of metal tubes were also done in the same area."

He said the authorities should do something about the situation. "Prevention is better than cure."

Stomp has contacted the authorities for comments.



## Yellow mushroom poisonous, says AVA

**T**HE yellow mushroom Stomp contributor Ron found and highlighted in the citizen media website recently is poisonous, said a scientist from the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA).

AVA scientist Dr Wong Jia Yih said that the mushroom is known as *Leucocoprinus birnbaumii*.

The species is commonly found in the tropics. The mushroom helps in the decay of dead leaves and is poisonous if eaten.

Fellow contributor riomico888 said: "Hope no one touch or eat it."



## Well-meaning act becomes obstruction

**A** WELL-MEANING act by Aljunied Town Council to erect handrails at a block has made a sheltered walkway unusable for residents who alight from cars during rainy days, said Stomp contributor Ann Chang.

She said that the erected handrails, which flank the walkway, pose as obstruction to cars. The handrails are presumed to aid the physically handicapped.

Cars are unable to stop under the walkway now, making the shelter useless when it rains.

Go to [www.stomp.com.sg](http://www.stomp.com.sg) for more citizen media content. If you see anything interesting on the ground, send a picture of it to [myp@sph.com.sg](mailto:myp@sph.com.sg)

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## Employers putting the brakes on hiring

### Caution due to fear of economic slowdown

**F**EWER bosses here expect to hire new staff in the next three months compared to the previous three months, a survey showed.

Some 42 per cent of the 713 bosses polled by US-based employment services agency Manpower expect to take on new hires from July to September this year, while 5 per cent expect a fall in headcount. This is down from the 65 per cent who expected fresh recruits in the second quarter of the year.

In Manpower's latest quarterly survey, the seasonally adjusted net employment outlook stood at 42 per cent - a 12 percentage point fall from the previous quarter and a 13-percentage-point dip on a year-on-year basis.

Net employment outlook measures the difference between the proportion of employers anticipating total employment to increase, and the percentage of those expecting a decrease.

The 713 bosses polled here hail from seven economic sectors, including manufacturing and services.

The poll is part of a worldwide survey of more than 55,000 public- and private-sector employers.

Manpower Singapore country manager Rosa Goh said that while employers on the whole are still recruiting aggres-

sively, they are more cautious now due to the looming spectre of an economic slowdown.

"When it comes to hiring, employers in Singapore are still in the fast lane, but they are easing off the accelerator," she said.

The most pessimistic sectors are wholesale and retail trade, and mining and construction. The net employment outlook for these sectors is down 37 percentage points and 30 percentage points respectively from the last quarter.

Ms Annie Yap, CEO of human resources consultancy GMP, said the hiring slowdown is particularly visible in the construction sector.

"With en bloc sales and new property developments grinding to a halt, construction companies don't see any urgency to ramp up staff numbers," she said.

- THE STRAITS TIMES

### HELPDESK 我的字典

**Headcount:** 职员总数  
zhí yuán zǒng shù

**Outlook:** 前景  
qián jǐng