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Headline: Newton MRT fire likely due to cable insulation issues: Lui Tuck Yew

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SINGAPORE: The fire at Newton MRT station on 13 February was caused by a short circuit, likely due to cable insulation issues, Transport Minister Lui Tuck Yew told Parliament.

Mr Lui said this will be confirmed by laboratory tests, which should conclude in the next few weeks.

As an immediate measure however, Mr Lui said the cables at the affected stretch of the tunnel have been replaced.

He added SMRT has conducted a complete insulation test of all underground traction cables and stepped up its insulation checks on similar installations at all tunnels.

Nominated MP Assistant Professor Eugene Tan said he was concerned about passengers milling around at the platform and taking photos even though a fire had occurred.

Mr Lui responded: "The passengers in this case were ushered as quickly as possible out of the station contrary to impressions that they were allowed to mill around and so on. But whether we can effectively prevent any passenger from taking a photograph if they choose to do so is something that needs to be looked further into."

- CNA/xq