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Singapore Government

PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR KOO TSAI KEE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE JETTY / TOWER AND SUSPENSION FOOTBRIDGE AT TANJONG RHU ON TUES, 4 AUG 98 AT 7.00 PM AT TANJONG RHU PLACE

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen:

1 As we look forward to celebrate 33 years of nationhood in a few days' time, this evening's ceremony is indeed a timely reminder of just

how far Singapore has come since independence. This very area we are gathered on was once the site of an old shipyard amid the polluted Geylang River, reminiscent of pre-independence Singapore.

2 But through the combined effort of several government ministries and agencies, working in partnership with the private sector, this same spot is very different today. Indeed, it is a far cry from what it was only six years ago. The shoreline has been reclaimed, the water is cleaner and the stretch of riverside beautifully landscaped. The whole Tanjong Rhu area has been transformed into a quality waterfront residential enclave through the dedicated planning and co-ordination of various government departments.

3 This re-development of Tanjong Rhu is a fine example of the spirit of Singapore, where different government agencies work seamlessly and symbiotically together, with private sector participation, to transform Singapore into a modern city. This seamless working relationship between the various government ministries and agencies is the hallmark of collaborative efforts among the various sectors in Singapore. It is this same spirit of hard work, co-operation and excellence that has brought Singapore to the threshold of the 21st century, with confidence and optimism. My congratulations to the Ministry of the Environment, the Land Transport Authority, the Maritime and Port Authority, the Housing and Development Board, the National Parks Board, the Urban Redevelopment Authority and the Public Works Department for working together to bring about a rejuvenated Tanjong Rhu.

4 I also wish to commend the planners of URA for making provisions for this jetty with a tower, and the suspension footbridge across the Geylang River, in their overall re-development plans for Tanjong Rhu. And I commend the engineers of PWD for their expertise in designing and building these facilities. The joint efforts of URA and PWD will enable residents and visitors to Tanjong Rhu to soak in the beauty of the area thoroughly.

5 Let me take you through some of the characteristics of the suspension footbridge and the jetty and tower. The bridge, which costs \$5.1 million, is 130-metres long and 4-metres wide. It is suspended by 100 hanger cables, each one-inch thick, onto two main cables, each 4½-inches thick, through a majestic 19-metre-high "A" frame located at each end of the bridge. This bridge will enable the public and park-users to take a leisurely stroll across the Geylang River to the National Stadium, Indoor Stadium, Kallang Theatre and waterfront homes.

6 The jetty, built at a cost of \$2.7 million, is 68 metres long and 10 metres wide. It extends from the waterfront promenade into the river, thus enabling various recreational activities. At the head of the jetty is a 26-metre-high look-out tower which provides a commanding view of the surrounding area, from the skyscrapers in the CBD to the natural beauty of the Kallang and Geylang rivers.

7 This jetty and tower, and the suspension footbridge, will no doubt be a welcome treat to those living in or visiting the Tanjong Rhu area. And on the 9th of August, when we celebrate National Day, those who are not

in the National Stadium itself can still gasp at the aerial display and colourful fireworks show from the vantage of this tower or footbridge.

8 This footbridge is the first suspension bridge to be built in Singapore. It represents yet another milestone in PWD's 165 years of experience and history in public works. Since PWD's inception, it has been providing the various government agencies, statutory boards and the public with a range of consultancy and technical services.

9 PWD has managed a wide spectrum of infrastructure projects over the years. These include hospitals, schools, libraries, office buildings, immigration checkpoints and recreational amenities for sports and the arts. PWD's varied capabilities are evident from projects like the recently completed KK Women's and Children's Hospital, costing \$255 million, to on-going projects such as the new Parliament Complex, the Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, and the Woodlands Train Checkpoint. PWD has also undertaken such landmark projects as the Benjamin Sheares' Bridge, the Singapore-Malaysia Second Crossing and Changi Airport.

10 In addition, PWD is constantly on the lookout for innovative engineering and architectural solutions to overcome existing physical constraints. I was present at the contract-signing ceremony for the Jurong Island Roadlink project, designed by PWD to be the first road link in the world that can be opened up for vessels to pass through. These projects and many others add to PWD's credentials as a one-stop building expert.

11 Indeed, PWD has come a long way in supporting the growth of Singapore. It has, over the years, developed a substantial pool of experience and expertise. This will enhance PWD's competitive advantage locally and in the Asia-Pacific region when it corporatises.

12 Ladies and gentlemen, it leaves me now to congratulate the Public Works Department; their specialist consultants Murray North; the project contractors Tan Hee Seng Construction and Antara Koh Pte Ltd; as well as all those involved in realising this newest landmark for Singapore.

13 It is my pleasure to declare this jetty and tower, and suspension footbridge, open. Thank you.

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