

# SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR HO CHENG CHOON, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) AT THE CEREMONY TO MARK THE  
COMMENCEMENT OF THE PILING WORKS FOR THE PASSENGER TERMINAL  
BUILDING, CHANGI AIRPORT, ON 4TH JUNE 1977 AT 9.30 AM

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Since the Government's decision in 1975 to develop Changi International Airport, the PWD has concentrated its main efforts on the planning, organisation and designing of the International Airport to make it one of the best in the world when it is completed.

A project of this magnitude would normally take 10 years to design and construct, but posed with this challenge, the Department is determined to pool all its resources together and make the Airport operational within six years. I hope that by 1980 you will be able to see aircraft landing and taking off from this place where you are now standing.

The Airport Complex will consist of two parallel runways together with their associated taxiways and aircraft manoeuvring areas. There will also be extensive aircraft parking bays. The Passenger Terminal Building and the Control Tower will be located in the central area between the runways. All the other supporting buildings and facilities will also be in this Complex.

The \$200 million Passenger Terminal Building which is the largest and most important building in this Complex is designed by the PWD in close collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and the Department of Civil Aviation. When completed, it will be able to handle 10 million passengers annually in the first phase of this development project. This 5-storey Passenger Terminal Building will have two parallel fingers, each approximately 570 m long. There will be 45 aircraft parking bays of which 22 will be connected directly to the fingers by

passenger loading bridges. The building will also be equipped with moving sidewalks, baggage conveyors and a comprehensive sign system for the convenience of passengers and the public.

As it is expected to be completed before the end of 1980 tenders for the building works will be called sometime towards the end of this year so that work will commence early next year.

The Airport will also be connected to all parts of Singapore by two main access roads, the Pan Island Expressway and the East Coast Parkway. There will also be a link road between Paya Lebar Airport and Changi International Airport.

Much careful planning and coordination work has gone into this project. A number of committees were formed to look into various aspects of the Airport development. Manpower and materials had to be organised. An enormous amount of earthworks had to be undertaken as there were large tracts of undulating and marshy land. Most of these works were undertaken by Departmental professional and technical staff. However, in some specialised areas, consultants were employed. As far as possible, our main aim is to achieve the target date of completion using mainly local staff, so that the new airport can be a testimony to their capabilities, potential and achievement. With our local officers eventually gaining expert technical knowledge on design and construction, we hope that we can market our expertise to other countries when it is required.

It now gives me much pleasure to declare the commencement of the first pile.