

# SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR HO CHENG CHOON, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF  
GEYLANG EAST, AT THE BALLOTING OF HAWKER STALLS AT  
GEYLANG EAST CONSTITUENCY ON 14 DEC 78 AT 3 PM

I am happy to be here this afternoon. The balloting of 170 hawker stalls in this Geylang East Constituency means that residents will soon be enjoying more services here. Most of the hawkers themselves in today's balloting are from this constituency.

As you can see, three-quarters of this town centre has been completed. Already, there are a swimming pool complex, emporium, restaurant, shops and this market/cooked food centre. When fully built, this town centre will provide more amenities not only for residents of Geylang East but also of MacPherson Estate. Two cinemas, a library and a maternity and child clinic are being developed.

We must not under-rate the role played by hawkers. They provide a service which in today's live-style is becoming almost indispensable. In this connection, the Government's move to house all hawkers in food centres is beneficial to both hawkers and residents. Each hawker stall in a HDB market/food centre is subsidised by Government and the facilities in the centre also enable hawkers to maintain a high standard of cleanliness and hygiene.

With such advantages on their side, it is hoped that hawkers will not drive customers away by over-charging. Cleanliness and fair pricing should be the two chief virtues of every hawker. These qualities will earn him a successful business and a good name for the hawker centre, which in turn will win more customers and even better business.

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