

PRESS RELEASE

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**SPEECH BY MR WONG KAN SENG,
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF
BISHAN OFFICE AND LAUNCH OF
THE NEW BISHAN-TOA PAYOH TOWN COUNCIL LOGO
AT BLOCK 197 BISHAN STREET 13
ON SUNDAY, 11 MAY 1997 AT 9.45 AM**

Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Council was formed on 13 January 97 and it officially took over the management of 49,000 units of the Housing and Development Board (HDB) properties from the former Toa Payoh and Bishan-Serangoon Town councils. This is due to the changes in electoral boundaries at the last General Election.

Our Town Council is concerned with improving the environment and surroundings of the estates to bring it closer to the standard of the newer HDB estates. In view of this, it has spared no efforts to ensure that the living conditions and amenities in our estate are constantly kept in a good and serviceable condition. To further enhance the living conditions in the estates, the Town Council has planned a series of improvement works to provide modern and upgraded facilities for the enjoyment of residents. Some of these improvement projects include inter-block covered walkways, walkways linking the bus stops to

the nearest block, improvements to lift lobbies, new children playgrounds and waterproofing to brick walls. These improvements works are on-going and will be carried out at a cost of \$6 million.

This year, the Town Council will also carry out cyclical works all over the Town at a cost of \$16 million. These cyclical works include repairs and repainting of 109 blocks of flats in the Bishan estates; re-roofing of 30 blocks of flats in the Shunfu and Toa Payoh estates; replacement of 186 numbers of transfer pumps and booster pumps in both Toa Payoh and Bishan estates; replacement of major lift components to 207 lifts, overhauling and upgrading of 81 lifts in the Toa Payoh estates. These works would enhance the living conditions of the estates.

To provide prompt service to our Bishan/Thomson residents, the new Town Council has set up a new office in Bishan to better serve our residents. Residents of Bishan/Thomson can pay their service and conservancy charges as well as apply for Town Council services at this Bishan Office.

Efforts are being made to have direct contact and constant feedback from residents at all times. The Town Council has embarked on two projects to bring our residents closer. There is the issue of a monthly newsletter to keep residents informed of the activities of the Town Council and the grassroots activities in the Bishan-Toa Payoh Towns.

The Town Council is also looking into setting up a web site on the Internet where residents can communicate with the Town Council at any time of

the day and also be updated on the activities and services of the Town Council and the activities in Bishan-Toa Payoh Town.

I am confident that with the strong support from residents and grassroots leaders, our Town Council will be able to make Bishan-Toa Payoh Group Representative Constituency (GRC) a place where every resident will be proud to call "Home".

We are here today to celebrate the opening of our Bishan Office and also the launch of the new logo for our Town Council. These two events are significant as they mark the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Bishan-Toa Payoh GRC. Let us work together to mould Bishan-Toa Payoh Town into a well-managed estate and beautiful home for ourselves and for our future generations.

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