

16 SEP 1988

Singapore Government

# PRESS RELEASE

Information Division, Ministry of Communications & Information, 36th Storey, PSA Building, 460 Alexandra Road, Singapore 0511. Tel: 2789794/5.

38 - CPW - 1

Release No. 50/JUN  
12-1/88/06/25

SPEECH BY MR E W BARKER, MINISTER FOR LAW, AT THE  
OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE WAYANG SATU FLYOVER  
ON SATURDAY, 25 JUNE 1988 AT 10.30 AM

Today marks the completion of the two flyovers along Bukit Timah Road and Dunearn Road over the junctions at Stevens Road and Whitley Road respectively. The opening of the flyovers this morning will end the traffic congestion experienced daily by motorists travelling on the north-south corridor at Bukit Timah Road and Dunearn Road and the east-west corridor at Whitley Road and Stevens Road.

The completion of this pair of flyovers, built at a cost of \$11.4 million, underlines the Public Works Department's continuous efforts to improve our traffic flow. The success of this project has been achieved through the close co-operation of the various government departments, the contractor, consultant and statutory bodies.

These two flyovers are named the Wayang Satu Flyover. What are the origins of the name Wayang Satu? I understand that periodic Teochew and Hokkien opera shows or wayangs were regularly performed here before the war. The 'local wayang' is not staged here nowadays but the naming of the flyover will, I hope, perpetuate the memories of the past.

These two flyovers are each 261 metres in length. Each carries three traffic lanes in each direction. Both will provide a smooth and uninterrupted traffic flow for motorists travelling through this busy road intersection.

During the construction of the flyover, there was minimal interference to the heavy traffic flow. This was made possible because the Public Works Department accepted a special bridge construction method called the 'incremental launching method' offered by the contractor Woh Hup Pte Ltd. Using this method, the superstructure was precast in a specially-constructed manufacturing yard located at one end of the flyover segment by segment. These segments were then jacked out one after another over a series of preconstructed piers or columns until the entire flyover was formed. The construction was, thus, carried out without the normal use of massive framework and heavy cranes. As concreting was carried out under rigidly controlled conditions in the manufacturing yard, the quality of workmanship was superior and also required fewer workers. Further, less noise was generated as this method reduced the use of heavy equipment.

The adoption of the new method in constructing this pair of flyovers once again demonstrates that the Public Works Department is ready and willing to introduce new technology to upgrade the technical skills of our construction industry.

The experience gained by the staff of the Public Works Department and Woh Hup in this project will provide valuable lessons for similar works in future.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the residents in this vicinity for their patience and tolerance during the two-year construction period.

It gives me great pleasure now to declare the Wayang Satu Flyover open.