

# Singapore Government

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SPEECH BY MR HON SUI SEN, MINISTER FOR FINANCE, AT  
THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY OF PETROCHEMICAL  
CORPORATION OF SINGAPORE (PRIVATE) LTD AT PULAU AYER  
MERBAU ON 17 JULY 1980 AT 10.30 AM

Among the few natural advantages Singapore possesses are those that have made Singapore one of the finest ports in the world - namely its excellent location and the deep water surrounding it. Apart from the main island, Singapore is fortunate to have several small islands surrounded by the same deep water which make them ideal for petroleum-related activities. Singapore was sufficiently discerning to have converted these small islands into centres of economic activity, for petroleum refineries mainly but now, also for the first petrochemical complex in South East Asia.

We are gathered here this morning on Pulau Ayer Merbau one of our Southern Islands, for ground-breaking by the Petrochemical Corporation of Singapore. After many years of gestation the project has finally reached the stage of full-scale physical implementation. This island was reclaimed in 1977 and has been waiting patiently for construction to start. Over the short span of the next two years until completion in August 1982, this site will be a hive of construction activity starting with civil works and progressing rapidly to plant erection and start up.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those present who have played a role in this project. Your continuing support and cooperation will be needed to make this project robust and worthy of the huge resources which are being invested in it.

PCS is the upstream company in the complex and it is appropriate that it should be the first company to start construction on this island. The downstream facilities will follow quickly as both upstream and downstream facilities must be completed at about the same time to form the entire complex. I wish PCS and all the downstream companies success and good fortune.