

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT MC.MA.4/64(LAB)

TEXT OF ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR,
MR. JEK YEUN THONG, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY
OF SINGAPORE GARMENT FACTORY LTD. AT HILL
VIEW AVENUE, BUKIT TIMAH, ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH
MARCH, 1964 AT 5.00 P.M.

During the past one month, no less than 10 factories have held their opening ceremony or laid their foundation stone to mark the commencement of construction work. The wide range of product which will be manufactured by these factories includes motor-car tyres, galvanised iron sheets, food products, and other activities such as shipbuilding and repairing. Today, it is my pleasure to perform another opening ceremony for a garment factory. Food, shelter and clothing are the basic necessities of life. Yet, it is surprising to see how little manufacturing activity in the past was centered round these three necessities in Singapore.

It is, therefore, particularly encouraging to see garment factories being established here. There has always been a large home market for garments and other textile goods in Singapore. Industrialists do not invest their money in an enterprise for altruistic reasons. They make shrewd calculations on the profitability of the investment before venturing into anything. The many industrialists who invest in the textile industry in Singapore realise that this particular industry has not only a substantial home market but is also one with a good export potential if they can maintain reasonably competitive prices and quality.

The Singapore Garment Factory Ltd. has already gone into production and is, at present, manufacturing garments from imported cloth. A total of about 300 full-time workers are being presently employed on two shifts. When in full production, the employment will come to well over 400 people. It gives me great pleasure now to declare this factory open. I wish the enterprise every success.

MARCE 4th. 1964.

(Time issued: 1430 hours)