

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR LAW AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
MR. E.W. BARKER, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF MACRITCHIE
RESERVOIR PARK ON FRIDAY, 4TH AUGUST, 1967 AT 6.30 P.M.

It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening for two reasons. Firstly, it marks the successful completion of a scheme which was initiated in late 1965 whilst the Public Utilities Board was under my portfolio; and secondly, the Park happens to fall within the constituency of Tanglin.

A nation bent on forging ahead must ensure that its citizens are robust and healthy. Our people, particularly those living in flats and in the congested parts of our city, must be able, on occasions, to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life; and well laid out recreational areas, such as this, where people can spend a pleasant evening with their families are a vital necessity. This development incidentally also accords with our aim at the full utilization of all our existing open spaces.

Our main problem when deciding whether to develop the environs of this Reservoir was the effects of the likely additional water pollution which more intensive user of the area would bring. It was decided, after careful consideration, to proceed with this project, taking adequate measures against these hazards. The result, as you can see, is a most attractive development and one further step in our overall plans to make our Republic the most attractive city in this part of the world. I must congratulate all the many officers concerned, in both the Public Utilities Board and Government, on the completion of a most successful project.

On the aesthetic side, not only has the natural scenic beauty been successfully retained but various embellishments have been added - the timber bridge, the bandstand, the floating fountain with changing coloured water jets, the tea kiosk, garden seats and paved footpaths. I am sure this spot will attract not only residents of the adjoining areas, but also families from other parts of the island as well as visitors to Singapore. I therefore endorse the call of the Chairman for co-operation, and hope that all of us who visit this spot will do their bit to ensure that this new Park of ours is always as clean and beautiful as it is to-day.

AUGUST 4, 1967.

Issued at 1700 hours