

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC. SE. 5767 (LAW)

TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR LAW, MR. E. W. BARKER,  
AT THE LAUNCHING OF A WATER-BOAT "TENAGA" BUILT BY JURONG  
SHIPYARD ON MONDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER 1967, 11 A.M. AT THE  
KEPPEL DOCKYARD

A few months ago, I had the pleasure of officiating at a launching ceremony of a water boat built by the Jurong Shipyard. It is an equally great pleasure to attend to-day's function which sees the culmination of the efforts of the P.S.A.'s Dockyard.

In December, 1966 the Dockyard was asked to construct two tugs at the cost of about a million dollars each, delivery to be between 12 to 14 months. Today's launching of the first of these two tugs, 3 months ahead of schedule, is a noteworthy achievement, for which all those concerned deserve our congratulations.

We operate at present a fleet of 7 tugs to assist vessels in berthing and unberthing operations at the wharves and in the docking and undocking of vessels for repairs. It was a pleasant surprise to me when I learnt that all these 7 tugs have been built in Singapore, some over 25 years ago. Our older tugs have to be replaced, and sometimes, unfortunate accidents like the loss of the tug "Skillful" last year call for adjustments in our renewal plans.

Our aim is to provide port facilities second to none - and this required constant forward planning - planning to renew, to replace and to expand. The construction of these two boats is part of this process. These two tugs - the second, I understand will be launched in a few days time - incorporate the latest in design, construction and equipment and are also equipped for fire fighting. They will help us to meet the increasing demand for tug services arising out of the ever expanding operations in Jurong, and the demand that will arise when the development at the Eastern Lagoon is completed.

We look forward to the day when we will build not merely all the tugs and ships that we need but also cater for the ship building and repair needs of our neighbours. I must say that occasions such as this inspire confidence that this goal is not beyond our reach.

This tug is being named "Tenaga" which means energy or strength. I hope that those who man her will live up to her name and be not only strong but always energetic.

My best wishes go to the "Tenaga" and her crew.