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Speech of Mr. L. P. Rodrigo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, at the Opening of the Civil Defence School, at South Buena Vista Road, at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday, 18th December, 1971.

In November last year, I announced the proposed establishment of the Civil Defence Organisation within the Vigilante Corps.

Civil Defence Service in the Vigilante Corps begins in the 5th year and continues to the 8th year of the 12-year part-time National Service, and the Civil Defence Organisation is now established with the commencement of training of the 2nd Intake <sup>National Servicemen</sup> in this Civil Defence School on the 22nd November, 1971.

The Civil Defence School provides training in disaster management, shelter and mass psychology, first-aid, fire-fighting, rescue techniques and development of skills in handling debris clearance machines, electric lines and power cables, gas and water leakages.

The training is comprehensive. It is designed to develop disciplined responses in our National Servicemen and equip them with sufficient knowledge and ability to assist their fellowmen in times of disaster.

Henceforth, all Vigilante Corps members will commence Civil Defence Service with residential training in the Civil Defence School in their 5th year of National Service in the Vigilante Corps.

Within the next few years almost every young adult in the country would be either an effective soldier, law enforcer or civil defender through National Service in the Army, Special Constabulary or Vigilante Corps. They will all be disciplined to respond effectively to emergency situations in the protection of the lives and property of the people.

The School begins in a humble fashion. In due course, it is proposed to introduce material and equipment in keeping with standards and techniques of Civil Defence in other parts of the world which are applicable here.

I now have the privilege of officially declaring The Civil Defence School opened.

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