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SPEECH BY MR. L.P. RODRIGO, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MP FOR SERANGOON GARDENS,
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SERANGOON GARDENS
HAWKERS' CENTRE AT THE SERANGOON GARDEN WAY TAXI
STAND ON SATURDAY, 6TH MAY, 1972 AT 7.00 P.M.

We are honoured to have Mr. Barker here this evening to declare open our new Hawkers Centre and Garden Park along Chartwell Drive. In fact this also marks the completion of two other projects namely the Bus Bay and the beautification of the Circus with shrubs and foliage plants.

These four projects have been undertaken by the PWD and the Parks and Trees Division in the Ministry of National Development.

For your information, the Garden Park has been developed at the cost of \$39,500/- and the Hawkers Centre has been constructed at the cost of \$95,000/-. This is indeed a lot of money spent by the Government on facilities for the residents of Serangoon Gardens constituency.

I would like to take this opportunity of reminding the hawkers in the Centre who will directly benefit from this project that the Government's intention of constructing attractive and expensive stalls for hawking is firstly to help our poorer citizens to develop for themselves a means of livelihood and secondly to provide our people with organised and hygienic eating places.

The Hawker Branch in the Ministry of Health have rules to ensure that hawking licences are used for their purpose. I urge the hawkers in the Centre to comply with all these rules and co-operate with the Hawker Branch.

The Centre which has been named "Chomp Chomp" will surely be popular with the residents of Serangoon Gardens in a short time.

I would also urge the residents of Serangoon Gardens constituency making use of the pretty Garden Park to use it with care and consideration.

I wish to express my appreciation to various officials in Mr. Barker's Ministry, all of whom have co-operated splendidly with me during the period that the four projects were undertaken.

Although I am more than thankful for these projects, I wish to sound out Mr. Barker on the possibility of constructing a swimming pool in the Serangoon District for the benefit of many youngsters in the constituencies comprising the Serangoon District.

With a swimming pool constructed in the area, our boys and girls will find yet another significant recreational facility by which they can be constructively pre-occupied.

In conclusion, and on behalf of the Citizens' Consultative Committee, I wish to thank the hawkers for this dinner which they are contributing and to Mr. Barker for having come here to declare open the Hawkers Centre and Garden Park.

DATED: MAY 6, 1972.

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