

4/12 Pt 2

SPEECH BY MR LIM GUAN HOO, POLITICAL SECRETARY
TO THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AT THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CIRCUIT ROAD POST OFFICE
AT 3023, BLOCK 91, PAYA LEBAR WAY ON SATURDAY,
1 JULY, 1972 at 7.30 p.m.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to be with you this evening on the opening of this Circuit Road Post Office which is the first to be opened this year and the 45th in Singapore. In keeping with the expansion of the Postal Services Department more new post offices are being planned for the years ahead. This is in line with the Government's policy of expansion of postal facilities to meet the ever increasing demands arising out of the rapid economic growth and housing development programmes.

The pace of development in Singapore is such that great demands are made on the postal services. During the last five years the volume of mails and postal business handled by our postal service has increased tremendously. The cash turnover at post offices has increased from \$297 million in 1967 to \$541 million last year. During the same period, the number of postal articles handled has also increased from 192 million items to 268 million items which is equivalent to roughly one postal item for every adult every two days.

Singapore, being the fourth busiest port in the world plays an important part in international trade and it is essential that we must not only have first class communications facilities such as the port, telephone, telecommunications but also postal services. It is our desire to ensure that we continue to provide these services with peak efficiency at all times and every effort will be made to improve these services.

The opening of this Circuit Road Post Office will now bring our postal counter and delivery facilities closer to the people who live and work in the MacPherson Housing Estate. Besides providing services of a purely postal nature, the post office also provides a number of agency services for the convenience of the public. These include the acceptance of telegrams, issue and renewal of Radio and Television Licences, renewal of driving licences, collection and payment of Central Provident Fund Contributions, payment of Social Welfare allowances and civil pensions. There is also a special counter to handle Post Office Savings Bank transactions. Furthermore, with the opening of the Circuit Road Post

Office, stamp collectors residing in the MacPherson Housing Estate will in future find it more convenient to purchase their First Day Cover and new stamps from this office.

The opening of an office such as this, therefore, virtually brings postal facilities to your doorstep.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I declare this Post Office open.