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SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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**SPEECH BY THE FIRST LADY, MRS. B.H. SHEARES, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE "MONTH FOR THE HANDICAPPED"
ON SATURDAY, 1ST JULY, 1972 AT 4.00 P.M. AT THE
SINGAPORE COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING, 11 PENANG LANE**

on
It is on occasions such as these that we pause to reflect on the plight of the handicapped members of our society. Sometimes many of us take for granted the services provided by a few specialists and volunteer helpers and that the handicapped is being adequately cared for.

This "month for the handicapped" is specially organised to inform the public of the problems and difficulties faced by the handicapped children in their desire to lead as normal a life as their fellow citizens. Many of the handicapped are capable individuals who can, with proper training and guidance, contribute towards total progress and growth of our Republic. However, as in many other fields of endeavour, enormous strain is placed on the core of the dedicated specialists and volunteer helpers.

During the month you will be able to see the skill, the dexterity and the imaginative spirit of the handicapped children displayed in the crafts, the sports and cultural activities and their academic achievements. The highlight of the activities will be the exhibition of work of the children, a combined sports for the handicapped and a concert.

In its efforts to improve the lot of the handicapped, the committee on the education of the handicapped children has been in touch with the progress of similar organisations in other parts of the world. It is heartening to note that, within the limits of available finance, the committee has made innovations and updated its skills, I am also informed that the committee has invited our own experts in the field to lead a public discussion in a forum. I am hopeful that the exchange of views would result in further improvement in the care of and the services for the handicapped in our Republic.

I congratulate the president, the board of management, the members of the Singapore Council of Social Service and all the volunteer helpers for organising this "month for the handicapped", and also for their untiring service to the handicapped children.

I thank the Malaysia-Singapore Airlines for their generosity in making available the passages for the participants from ASEAN countries.

It now gives me great pleasure to launch the "month for the handicapped".

Date: 1st July, 1972.