

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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MC: AUG/70/72(ISTANA)

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SPEECH BY THE FIRST LADY, MRS. B. H. SHEARES, AT THE  
OPENING OF THE AUGUST FAIR AT YWCA HOUSE, JURONG, ON  
SATURDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 1972 AT 12.00 NOON

Our Republic's economic progress has been achieved through the hard work of its people, including our women folk. More and more women, especially young girls, are taking up paid employment in offices and in industrial establishments. Thus, they perform an economic function which helps to maintain the momentum of our industrial productivity.

The women's organisations in Singapore should be conscious of this new role of their members in the changing pattern of our society. I am happy to note that the Young Women's Christian Association has been quick to realise the need for suitable accommodation for young girls working in the Jurong Industrial Estate. The YWCA house which was opened in January 1972 fulfils an urgent need in this regard, and therefore deserves special mention.

It is encouraging to see that more women are now coming forward to take part in welfare work and community projects. Not very long ago there were fears that when the voluntary assistance of British service families ceased, consequent on their withdrawal from Singapore, the social service in Singapore might experience a set-back. Events since then have dispelled these fears and it is a matter of pride to note that Singaporeans have risen to the occasion.

There is a notable and a welcome tendency to hold fashion shows and morning coffees to aid welfare projects and not just to kill idle time. I am confident that the women's organisations in Singapore will be able to adapt to the changing needs of society.

I wish the Young Women's Christian Association continued success in its efforts to raise funds for their very commendable projects.

I have great pleasure in now declaring the August Fair open.

Date: 26.8.72.