

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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SPEECH BY DR ANG KOK PENG, MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH
AND MP FOR CRAWFORD, AT THE OPENING OF THE NORTH BRIDGE ROAD
MARKET ON SUNDAY, 11 AUGUST 1974 AT 9.00 AM

I am happy to be with you here this morning at the official opening of the North Bridge Road Market. This market with 425 stalls is one of the largest built by the Government at a cost of \$1 million. This does not include the cost of the land which is very expensive in this area. At the current rates of fees charged for operating these stalls the Government is in fact subsidising the stallholders very heavily.

2 It is the Government policy to resite all street hawkers in permanent premises where they can operate their business under hygienic conditions and in congenial environment. This market is one of the projects for implementing this policy. Other markets and food centres are being built or will be built in due course of time by the Government in various parts of Singapore. These will provide much improved conditions for existing street hawkers to carry on their business well protected from the sun and the rain.

3 Our market at North Bridge Road serves to house street hawkers in this constituency and Jalan Laut, as well as the stallholders of the market at Clyde Terrace which is making way for the development of the Golden Mile. It is provided with all the essential facilities such as electricity and water supply, washing area and toilet as well as anti-pollution measures for the maintenance of a high standard of personal and food hygiene and a clean environment. For the residents of Crawford and neighbouring areas this market will mean greater convenience,

more pleasant marketing, and cleaner and more wholesome foodstuff.

4 As this is a new market the hawkers here have an excellent opportunity to build up a good reputation for it as a place where the hawkers observe a high standard of personal and food hygiene, and where the customers could shop with the confidence that they will not be cheated by inflated prices and short weight. If you can establish such a reputation, the success of the market is fully assured. I urge you to work for your success in this way.

5 Before I conclude I would like, on behalf of the residents of Crawford, to thank the Ministry of the Environment for providing us with a market here. I also wish to thank the organisers of to-day's function for their efforts. I now have great pleasure in declaring the market officially open.

Date: 11 August 1974