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Subject: [Embargoed] Speech by Dr Aline Wong, 25 Jun 2000, 10am

# *Singapore Government*

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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**SPEECH BY DR ALINE WONG, SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND MP FOR TAMPINES GRC(CHANGKAT) AT GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR TAMPINES TOWN COUNCIL BATCH 5 INTERIM UPGRADING PROGRAMME (BLOCKS 105 TO 110) AT 10.00AM ON SUNDAY, 25 JUNE 2000, AT THE CARPARK BEHIND BLOCK 106, TAMPINES STREET 11.**

Good morning,

Distinguished guests;

Residents of Blocks 105 to 110;

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very glad to see your participation in this morning's Groundbreaking Ceremony for Batch 5 Interim Upgrading Programme (IUP) for Blocks 105 to 110, Tampines Street 11. My fellow Members of

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Parliament, Mr Mah Bow Tan, Mr Yatiman Yusof, Mr Sin Boon Ann and I are really glad that you are able to join us today to enjoy the exciting programme and activities planned especially for you.

2 I am happy to report that the polling held last October was a great success. You showed your strong support for the IUP by giving us a favourable vote of 95.8%. With the clear mandate you have given us, I am extremely pleased to announce to you that we will proceed with the \$3.66 million IUP which will benefit 732 households.

3 The IUP will cover the upgrading of the common areas in your block and around the estate. The town council has conducted a survey earlier to find out what type of facilities you wish to have. Using the results of the survey, we have decided to include the following features in the IUP: a study lounge, amphitheatre, covered walkways, drop-off points, entrance gateway, new jogging track, improved physical fitness corner, improved lift lobbies and new anti-junk letterboxes. The majority of the respondents have indicated these features as their preference in the survey.

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4 With the IUP, the value of your property will be enhanced substantially. But I hope you will also see these added facilities as a means of enhancing our community ties.

5 Do come out of your flat to enjoy the new facilities and meet your neighbours. Take part in the life of the community and form support networks with your fellow residents. High-density living is more meaningful and enjoyable when there is social cohesiveness, and you make friends

instead of mere neighbours. Mutual understanding and respect for your neighbours' religion and customs are important. The government and the town council can only facilitate community bonding by providing the hardware. You have to come up with the "heartware"..

6 I would also like to make use of this opportunity to address the issue of 'killer litter' . I am sure all of you, like me, are saddened by the falling flower pot accident that killed a five-year old girl who was walking below Blk 54 Kent Road on 30 April 2000. This is something that we hope will never be repeated. Our Tampines Town Council is in the process of gazetting new by-laws so that the Council has the authority to remove items that are deemed to be a hazard. The new by-laws also stipulate a heavy penalty in order to deter offenders. We have to act before someone gets hurt again! At the same time, I sincerely seek your cooperation in removing your "*barang-barang*" in your house or along the common areas that are potential 'killer litter' . Don' t leave it to chances. Don' t wait till your loved ones or your neighbours get hurt!

7 This Groundbreaking Ceremony marks the start of the construction. Some inconvenience to you is inevitable; we hope that you will be patient. The Town Council will do our best to keep inconvenience, dust and noise to a minimum.

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