

Addendum to Presidential Address at the
Opening of the First Session of the
Fourth Parliament on Tuesday, 8 February 1977

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of National Development will plan and work towards better housing with improved social and recreational facilities, better infrastructure and public amenities in pleasant and gracious environment in the next 5 years.

The importance of creating new parks and open spaces is underlined by the large number of people living in high rise flats. The Parks and Recreation Department will continue with its effort to improve our garden city. Six new parks will be developed at West Coast reclaimed land, Pasir Panjang Hill, Sembawang, Pasir Ris, Marina Centre and Tanjong Berlayer. Recreational facilities will be introduced into these parks wherever necessary. Appropriate planning policy will ensure the maximum utilisation of our scarce land resources and the creation of a pleasant and gracious environment.

\$20 million will be spent on kampong roads, bridges, jetties, street lighting and public utilities for the improvement of the rural areas.

Housing and Public Projects

Since 1960, the Housing and Development Board has completed about a quarter million housing units for 55% of our population. Under the fourth Five Year Building Programme another 150,000 units will be completed by 1980. An additional 10,000 flats will be built in the Central Area to help reverse the population drift to the new towns. At this pace of development applicants will not have to wait longer than 1 - 1½ years to buy or rent HDB flats. It is estimated that about 2 million people will live in HDB flats by 1980. The HDB will continue to strive to establish a closer rapport with the residents and will continue to seek their co-operation and assistance in providing an efficient, courteous and responsive management.

HUDC flats are built for middle income citizens who are not eligible for HDB flats and who cannot afford private housing. Ownership of HUDC flats is made easier as the purchase of the flats can be made with the assistance of the Central Provident Fund. 2,000 flats have already been built and sold. Another 1,000 new flats will be built by 1978 at Braddell Rise, Chancery Lane and Ulu Pandan. Middle income housing is also planned for the Central Area.

The Urban Redevelopment Authority will systematically clear slums and renew the Central Area. Places of historic interest, however, will be rehabilitated and preserved. Entertainment and recreational facilities will be planned to promote activities after normal business hours. Transit and permanent resettlement centres, where required, will be built to resettle businesses.

Our housing and industrial programmes make it necessary for the Public Works Department to construct and maintain a large network of roads. The Pan Island Expressway, the East Coast Parkway and the Woodlands Expressway are three major road projects under construction. Computerised traffic control will be introduced to maximise utilisation of roads. To cater to the interest of the growing number of pedestrians on our roads, landscaped footpaths, pedestrian malls and walkways will be constructed.

The PWD is now engaged in the improvement of Paya Lebar Airport to adequately meet the projected growth in passenger and air cargo traffic over the next few years. The construction of a new airport with two runways on reclaimed land in Changi has begun. The first runway of the new airport is scheduled for service in the early 80's. Construction of the University of Singapore campus at Kent Ridge with facilities for the University to increase its student population from 3,500 to 7,500 will be completed by 1980. Work on Kent Ridge Hospital - a teaching-cum-general hospital with 750 beds - will commence in 1978. 36 primary schools and 30 secondary schools sited within the new centres of population will be built. In addition, the Department will also build hospitals, clinics, libraries, markets and food centres.

Primary Production

Within the limits of available land, self-sufficiency in pork, eggs and poultry meat will be maintained. For environmental control, pig farms will be relocated from the Kranji area to a non-catchment area. A central market for fruits and vegetables will be built at Pasir Panjang to replace the Clyde Terrace Market and other wholesale centres in the city which are affected by redevelopment.

Resettlement

In addition to the provision of HDB flats for residential cases, there will be alternative premises or cash payments in lieu for shops, resettlement facilities for specific trades and land for efficient pig farmers in Punggol. Flatted and terrace factories will be developed at Paya Lebar and Jalan Perang for the relocation of small and supporting industries for them to continue and to expand.

Reclamation

Reclamation to provide additional land for housing, industries, recreational facilities, roads and other public projects will continue. At the East Coast, 1,000 hectares (2,500 acres) of land have been reclaimed. Another 1,180 hectares (2,950 acres) are being reclaimed of which 600 hectares are for the development of Changi Airport. Reclamation will provide about 580 hectares (1,450 acres) of new land adjacent to the Central Business District. This will allow for the expansion of the old city and if needs be, the building of a new city of the future.

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

The Public Utilities Board has been steadily expanding to meet the increasing demand for electricity, water and gas.

Electricity

The growth in maximum demand of electricity of 11% per year in 1975 and 1976 is indicative of the general trend of economic

recovery in /4

recovery in the Republic after the low growth of 3% in 1974 following the oil crisis. Over the next 5 years, a 58% increase is expected and more power projects are underway to cater for the 1980's.

Stage I of Senoko Power Station has been completed and work is currently in progress on Stage II comprising three 250 MW units. This stage which is estimated to cost \$522 million and is scheduled for completion in 1980 will increase the total generating capacity to 2090 MW. Plans for Stage III of Senoko are presently under study. For demand beyond the 1980's, another power station will be necessary and its proposed location is under consideration. Concomitant with the generation of more electricity is the extension of transmission and distribution system which will cost \$791.7 million over the next 5 years.

69% of the Board's annual recurrent expenditure before depreciation and interest charges is on fuel oil for electricity generation. Continuous efforts are being made to increase operational efficiency of generators to conserve the consumption of fuel oil. As a result of increasing efficiency, the Board has, so far, been able to absorb the 10% increase (from \$160 to \$177 per ton) in the price of fuel oil since October 1975, without increasing the price of electricity to consumers. However, the latest increase in oil price will necessitate an upward revision of the tariffs. Economy in the usage of electricity will not only benefit consumers but will also save foreign exchange for the Republic.

Water

In 1976 daily consumption of water averaged 594,000 cubic metres. This is expected to increase to 820,000 cubic metres in 1981, an increase of 38%. The growth of demand for water has necessitated continuous development of new sources which are becoming more expensive.

Construction of Western Catchments Scheme, which will commence this year, covers the four new reservoirs by the damming of four rivers - Murai, Poyan, Sarimbun and Tengah - in the western part of Singapore. These reservoirs will have a total

storage capacity of 28.4 million cu. m. This scheme and the extension of the recently completed Choa Chu Kang Treatment Works, scheduled for operation by 1981, will cost 272 million.

Like the Kranji-Pandan Scheme, water to the new reservoir flows through unprotected catchments and is more polluted than conventional sources. The water will have saline content as the reservoirs will be built in estuaries like Kranji and Pandan reservoirs. The treated water from these reservoirs will have a different taste but it will be completely safe for drinking and within World Health Organisation standards. This kind of water is to be expected from now onwards as water sources from the central protected catchments have been fully exploited.

The cost of production of water is increasing with more expensive methods of treatment requiring sophisticated and costly equipment and chemicals to treat the more polluted raw water. Wasteful habits in the use of potable water must be stopped. The devastating effects of drought even in countries with abundant water resources were seen last year. Water conservation must therefore be a way of life for Singaporeans.

Within the next few years, the Board will have to look into unconventional methods of increasing its water supply, like advanced water treatment methods to cope with anticipated demand beyond the 1980's. Feasibility studies and tests carried out at Jurong Pilot Plant, which are set up in 1974, have shown that with advanced water treatment technique, the recycling of water would technically be a feasible method of increasing water supply for the future.

Gas

With the continuing drive against air pollution, the demand for piped gas is expected to increase by 75% over the next five years, especially from the commercial and industrial sectors.

To meet this increased demand, gas production facilities are being expanded. Three new naphtha reformers, each with a daily production capacity of 150,500 cubic metres will be added

to the system. The old heavy fuel oil reformers will then be scrapped and only the more efficient pollution-free naphtha reformers will be utilised for gas production. These developments will cater for the demand for gas into the 1980's.

New Headquarters

The Board will be moving shortly into its new headquarters at Somerset Road. The centralisation of the various offices under one roof would enable better coordination and communication. The more conducive working environment will enhance efficiency and productivity.

LIM KIM SAN
Minister for National Development/
Chairman, PUB

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