

Singapore Government

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**SPEECH BY MR GOH CHOK TONG, MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY,
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF JURONG POLICE STATION,
ON TUESDAY, 3 JUNE 1980 AT 10.00 AM**

Singapore was first divided into eight Police Land Divisions more than 37 years ago. The largest Division, covering one-third of the total land area of Singapore was located in the south-western and western part of the island. It was called the "Rural West" Division. It has a rural population of less than 3,000 inhabitants scattered over an area of 6,000 hectares. Jurong and Tuas were large swamp lands.

The Police Divisional Headquarters Station was then sited along the main highway at Bukit Panjang. This site was considered the most appropriate as the population were concentrated in the few villages along the main highway leading to Johore. The crime rate was low and the services provided by the Divisional Headquarters Station were found to be adequate.

The character of "Rural West" has been changed dramatically. In 1960, the Government embarked on industrialization to create employment for the several thousands of unemployed youths. Jurong was selected as the best possible site for a large industrial estate as development of that area would involve minimal displacement to the resident population. Besides, it had excellent sea frontage with deep waters for the development of marine oriented industries.

Jurong was conceived not only as an industrial estate. It was conceived as a new town with housing, social and recreational amenities. It justified its own police station. On 1 April 1966, the Taman Jurong Post was established in two reconverted terrace

housing units at /2.

housing units at Yung Ho Road. It had a staff of 20. In 1967, manpower was increased and a Resident Inspector based there to facilitate investigation. However, this situation soon became inadequate. By 1975, the number of factories had increased to 613 with a labour force of 68,000. The resident population had also increased significantly and the crime pattern in "Rural West" Division showed a heavy concentration of crimes in the Jurong Industrial Estate. This therefore necessitated the shift of the Divisional Headquarters Station to the Jurong Industrial Area.

On 9 February '76, the Taman Jurong Post was elevated to Headquarters Station status and renamed Jurong Town Police Station. Bukit Panjang Police Station was downgraded to a sub-station and its manpower transferred to Jurong Town Police Station. Meanwhile, endeavours were made to construct a permanent Police Station. The long-term planning finally bore fruit when construction of the new Headquarters Station was completed and became operational on 15 March 1980.

The \$2.7 million Station consists of connected three-storey blocks with a total build-up area of 4,600 sq metres to cater for regular officers and both full-time and part-time Police National Servicemen. It is a modern Station. It not only has adequate recreational facilities for the staff but also proper facilities for conducting urine tests and counselling of Drug Supervisees.

Speedy response and prompt investigation is one of the surest ways to keep crime in check. This new Headquarters Station is centrally located within the residential estate and is close to the industrial areas. It will be a boon to the good citizens and a bane to the deviants.

Jurong is no more a sparsely populated swamp. Today, in Taman Jurong and Boon Lay Residential Estates, there are more than 18,500 units of public housing with a population of about 90,000. In addition, there are about 980 factories in full-scale operation within Rural West Division. To avoid misimpression, this Division will be renamed "J" Division. Its nerve-centre will be the new Jurong Police Station.

I now have great pleasure in officially declaring the
Jurong Police Station open.

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