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SPEECH BY DR RICHARD HU, MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION ON MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS FOR KALLANG AND SIMPANG PLANNING AREAS, ON SATURDAY, 10 JULY 1993 AT 11.00 AM AT THE MND FUNCTION ROOM

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen

Today marks an important milestone in the physical planning of Singapore. Two of the 55 Development Guide Plans or DGPs planned for Singapore are ready for release as the new Master Plan for the areas. And starting today, these two plans will be on public exhibition for two weeks. The two DGPs are on the Kallang and Simpang planning areas. Once the exhibition is over, the two DGPs will be finalised and gazetted as the new Master Plan for the two areas.

2. The Master Plan is the blue print that maps out in detail the future physical development of the area it covers. It gives clear directions to landowners and developers on how the area can be developed.

3. The public exhibition that opens today is a statutory requirement under the Planning Act to enable members of the public to air their views or raise objections if any. A completed DGP can be gazetted as the new Master Plan for the area it covers only after such an exhibition has been held. URA is now working on the remaining 53 DGPs, and once these are ready, it will hold similar exhibitions.

4. We have been involving the public as much as possible in the planning process. As you may recall, we exhibited preliminary plans of the Kallang, Simpang, Tanjong Rhu and Kampong Bugis DGPs in 1988 and 1990 for public feedback. These exhibitions were followed by a public dialogue for each exhibited proposal, to gather further feedback from professionals and other interested parties. We also invited private sector participation in drawing up the DGPs. For instance, the

Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) submitted proposals for the development of Kampong Bugis and Simpang. The URA and HDB also submitted alternative schemes for Kampong Bugis and Simpang, respectively.

5. This consultative process generated some extremely good and innovative ideas. URA has retained the central idea of many of these proposals for the DGPS for the Kallang and Simpang planning areas. In some instances, some ideas have been adapted to suit implementation of the proposals.

6. What can Singaporeans look forward to in these two areas? The Kallang area is designed to become an exciting location for urban waterfront living. In the Tanjong Rhu subzone, the government will spend about $80 million on infrastructural work such as roads and drainage, to prepare the area for development.

7. For the Simpang planning area, the Master Plan focuses on the creation of a 21st century Waterfront Community. The Plan capitalises on the location's natural advantages. About 115 hectares will be reclaimed in the area and Sungei Simpang will be dredged to create a through channel. The reclamation's profile will be kept as close to that of a natural coastline as suggested by the Singapore Institute of Architect's Team.

8. URA has also retained, in the planning proposals for these two areas, several other features proposed by both the HDB and the SIA Teams. These include the preservation of mangrove swamps and a bird sanctuary in the area, and the use of Pulau Seletar for recreational purposes. In addition, both teams' suggestions for a wide variety of housing forms in the area have also been accepted.

9. Once the Master Plan for the Simpang area is gazetted, development of Simpang will be fairly immediate. HDB is ready to start on the infrastructural works next year. If all goes according to schedule, HDB expects to have 2500 HDB units available for booking in 1995. There will also be land parcels

for developers for private projects. Details of these will be announced in due course.

10. These are only a few highlights of the Master Plan proposals for the Kallang and Simpang planning areas. I am sure that those who take the time to view the exhibition will realise the exciting prospects that the Kallang and Simpang planning areas hold, not only for the developers, both public and private, but for the residents as well.

11. It is now my pleasure to declare the exhibition open.

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