

Singapore Government

# PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY DR LEE BOON YANG, SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE  
(NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) & (HOME AFFAIRS),  
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF GEYLANG POLICE STATION  
ON FRIDAY, 7 APRIL 1989 AT 7.00 PM

In order to provide more timely and convenient service to as many people as possible, the Singapore Police Force has been relocating Police Divisional Headquarters in line with the shifts in our population. Today, we are witnessing the opening of the new Geylang Police Station to replace the old Beach Road Police Station. This new station is located closer to many new HDB estates to provide better service and improve security to the residents.

New police stations are better designed and have many more modern facilities. Altogether, the government has built four new stations. The Geylang Police Station is the last one to be completed. It will upgrade the working conditions and the efficiency of the police serving this part of Singapore.

Modern stations are designed to present an informal and friendly atmosphere to police officers who work in the station and people who have to seek police service.

With the building of new stations, older ones must be closed and police officers redeployed. In 1986, the government appointed a consultant firm to conduct a manpower review of the police. One of the recommendations was the reduction in the number of police divisions from eight to seven and the redemarcation of the divisional boundaries. The recommendation was made after a very careful and

detailed study of service demand factors, police response times and the presence of alternative police facilities in the form of Neighbourhood Police Posts (NPPs). This recommendation was accepted by the government.

Police has completed an in-depth study to decide on the choice of the division to be closed. Toa Payoh Police Station or 'B' Division was eventually selected for two reasons:-

Firstly, the NPP system in Toa Payoh is very well established with eight NPPs serving its residents and the closure of the station will not adversely affect Police presence or the level and quality of services.

Secondly, Toa Payoh is a small HDB estate with a mature residential population. Hence, service demand is not expected to rise dramatically from present levels.

With the closure of 'B' Division on 16 April 1989, the police divisional boundaries will be redrawn to coincide with the GRC and single-member constituency boundaries for better coordination with grassroot organisations. Other factors such as workload, population, crime and future demands are also taken into consideration. The redemarcation of divisional boundaries will allow for more effective policing and better service to the public through improved matching of demands and resources.

As Toa Payoh Police Station will be occupied by other police units, the 'B' Division areas will be absorbed by Geylang and Tanglin Police Divisions. Residents of Toa Payoh are encouraged to utilise the services provided by the eight NPPs in their neighbourhoods.

With the progressive completion of the NPP system in Singapore, NPPs have in fact taken over from the Divisional Headquarters Stations as the main service delivery points for the police. Research and experience over the past five years have confirmed the system as being very successful in establishing good rapport among residents, grassroots organisations and the police. The decentralisation of police services, continuing police-public cooperation and the acquisition of advanced anti-crime equipment and systems for the police will further enhance the security of the community. With the success of the community policing strategy and a dedicated police force, we can look forward to a more peaceful and safe Singapore.

It is now my pleasure to declare open the Geylang Police Station.

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