

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT**MC. OC. 31/63 (PM)****MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE
OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON 22/10/63.**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to explain briefly why it has not been possible to have the ceremonial opening of the House with an address from the Yang di-Pertuan Negara : the first meeting following upon the general elections.

On 23rd July this year, the last Assembly the Opposition parties – Barisan Sosialis, Alliance, U.P.P. and two independents blocked a Bill for general elections for 15 members to the Central Parliament. Members are aware that the Speaker of Parliament has asked us for the names of the 15 representatives from Singapore. These members will take their places as members of the House of Representatives on the 2nd November, in just over a week's time.

It is not possible before the 2nd November to have an address by the Yang di-Pertuan Negara, thereafter seven clear days adjournment followed by a debate on the motion of thanks to the Yang di-Pertuan Negara, and then the Bill for the election of 15 representatives – all to be completed before 2nd November.

We have therefore had to make an adjustment, and have today's business session, the swearing-in of new members, and the passage of this Bill. After we have ascertained when business sittings in Parliament in Kuala Lumpur will be, for November and December, the date of the ceremonial opening of this Assembly will be fixed when His Excellency the Yang di-Pertuan Negara will give his address setting out the programme and policy of the Government for the next year.

National Archives of Singapore

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