

TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE CHIEF MINISTER, MR. LIM
YEW HOCK, AT THE OPENING OF THE PASIR RIS BEACH
RESORT ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 1958, AT 11.30 A.M.

When I accepted the kind invitation of the Chairman and members of the Rural Board to come here on Saturday last, I did not expect the reception that awaited me would be so hot as to necessitate a heavy downpour of rain to restore the temperature to normal. But, of course, they could not have foreseen that their warm hospitality would cause the postponement of the opening of the Pasir Ris beach resort for more than a week. I find it no hardship to combine duty with pleasure on this occasion, especially as we are to be treated to aquatic demonstrations and entertainment.

I am interested in the Pasir Ris beach resort for another and very important reason. The Chairman, Rural Board, has already told you that the facilities here - although built by the Rural Board - are not for rural people alone, but are available to everyone on the Island - city folk, rural dwellers and islanders alike. Facilities here, together with those at Changi and Nicoll Drive, are not for the exclusive use by any one section of the community. That is what we want.

That is also what we hope to achieve under Government's co-ordinated community recreation plan, by which we intend to pool all our resources so that the greatest possible use can be made of existing recreational facilities by the greatest possible number of people and so that future planning will take care of gaps and inadequacies, with no overlapping anywhere.

The co-ordinated community recreation plan envisages:

- ** That community centres, youth clubs, vacant land wherever they exist, should be made available for use by young people and youth organisations as well as adults of whatever age and their organisations, living or established in that locality for the purposes of athletics, creative arts and other productive, or merely mentally and aesthetically invigorating leisure-time activities;
- ** Similarly, that all schools and school playing fields which come under the Ministry of Education should be made available outside school hours for programmes of community recreation which are available to everyone in the locality of the particular school.

To this end, to make the co-ordinated community recreation plan work, a special organisation has been formed under the Ministry of Labour and Welfare. This organisation has been named "The Community Recreation Division" and comes under the direction of an expert from America - Mr. Winans, who is due to arrive on Tuesday.

The development of these beach resorts here, at Changi, Nicoll Drive and elsewhere gives us the chance to get away from the restraining and congested confines of the City so that we can swim and play, gambol in the sunshine on the beaches and generally keep ourselves in a good and healthy condition. I should, therefore, like to congratulate the Rural Board for providing these facilities for the people of Singapore.

We should remember the significance of the well-known saying, "A healthy mind in a healthy body" - "Mens Sana in Corpore Sano" - or as we say in Chinese (Hokkien) "Kong Lok Chi Toh" and, perhaps, even more appropriately in Malay - "Fikiran Yang Sehat Terbit-nya Daripada Tuboh Yang Sehat" - healthy thoughts spring from healthy bodies.

Anyhow, whether it is by such facilities as these or the common facilities which we plan to offer under the co-ordinated community recreation plan, it is our hope that we shall succeed in channelling youthful energy into healthy, creative and worthwhile activities and thus build up healthy, disciplined and active young men and women. It is they who are the material from which we shall build the new State of Singapore. Let us see to it, therefore, that we succeed in our endeavour by giving youth every chance and facility it needs to develop along the right lines.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Rural Board, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in declaring open the Pasir Ris beach resort.

AUGUST 17, 1958.

(Time issued 1600 hours)

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