Singapore Government

MEDIA RELEASE

Media Division, Ministry of Information and the Arts, 140 Hill Street #02-02 MITA Building
Singapore 179369. Tel: 837 9666

==========

EMBARGO INSTRUCTIONS

The attached press release/speech is **EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY.**
Please check against delivery.
For assistance call 837 9666

==========

SPRInter 4.0, Singapore's Press Releases on the Internet, is located at:
http://www.gov.sg/sprinter/

==========

SPEECH BY MR MOHAMAD MAIDIN PACKER MOHD, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MP FOR MARINE PARADE GRC, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE EUNOS CRESCENT NEW MARKET AT BLK 4A EUNOS CRESCENT ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2000 AT 10.00 AM

Grassroots Leaders, stallholders invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very good morning to all of you. I am pleased to be here today for the opening of the Eunos Crescent new market. Let me take this opportunity to commend the Eunos Crescent Market and Shops Organising committee for taking the initiative to organise this timely opening.

National Archives of Singapore

2 It has been a year since a big fire brought down the old Eunos Crescent market located at Block 4 Eunos Crescent on 5 July 1999. The Kampong Ubi CCC Task Force comprising grassroots leaders and representatives from the Eunos Crescent Market and Shops committee, Kampong Ubi Citizens' Consultative Committee, Ministry of Environment, Marine Parade Town Council, the Police and HDB was set up to help relocate the affected stallholders to a temporary market/hawker centre as soon as possible.

3 With the help of HDB, it identified a site at the basket ball courts next to Blks 11 and 12 Eunos Crescent for a Transit Market to help minimise the disruption of market services to residents in Eunos Crescent and enabled

stallholders to resume their businesses within 4 weeks on 31 July 1999.

4 This Transit market accommodated the affected 128 stallholders until the HDB completed the new market that we have today. It was constructed at a cost of $345,000. Considering the hardship that the stallholders had to undergo following the fire on 5th July 1999, the Kampong Ubi CCC subsidized and recovered only 28% of the original cost of $563 per stall per month over a six-month period.

5 On 16 March 2000, the Eunos Crescent Transit Market was buffeted by strong winds damaging parts of the canvas covering at the food centre portion and the frame structure. Fortunately no one was hurt and the Kampong Ubi CCC Task Force was reactivated to deal with this development. The food centre was immediately closed to facilitate repair works.

6 Engineers were engaged by both MPTC and HDB to evaluate the extent of the damage and recommended remedial action beyond the basic repair work to strengthen the structure to withstand similar weather conditions. The transit market was re-opened for business 6 days after the incident on 21 March 2000.

7 The Eunos Crescent new Market is built at a cost of slightly above 2 million and was completed in June 2000. It has a gross floor area of 2,650.5 square metres and is accomodating a total of 113 stalls comprising of 42 cooked food stalls, 13 lock-up market produce stalls and 58 open slab market produce stalls. The approximate size of some of these stalls have increased to as much as 0.6 square metres compared to the previous stalls at the old market.

8 This new market is built of steel structure construction for strength. Pitch roof profile is used for the structure to blend with the surrounding building giving it a tropical architecture aesthetic. Such pitch roofing is used to achieve better and effective ventilation and lighting within the market/hawker centre.

National Archives of Singapore

9 The common features of this market/hawker centre are water, power and gas points, telephone point, commercial type sink, signage frame, tiling to walls and floors, roller shutters for lock-up stalls and chillers for pork/poultry produce . The ancillary facilities include a wash area for the cooked food section, sorting and freezer area for the market section, cleaner’s store, a transit bin centre, consumer switchroom and both male and female toilets.

10 The safety aspects of the market are not compromised. I understand from the relevant authorities that this market/hawker centre complies with the stringent

requirements laid down by the Fire Safety Bureau. Amongst other things, it comes with fire hosereels, fire extinguishers and manual alarm system.

11 The stall tenants have been allocated their new stalls by HDB through a ballot on 22 June 2000 at the Kampong Ubi Community Centre Hall and the allocation is based on the tenants' article of sale and designation of trade for the stalls. The cooked food stalls were designated into 2 sectors for the Halal/Muslim and Non-halal`. I understand that these stalls were designated taking into consideration factors such as compatibility of trades, groupings, religious implications etc.

12 I am also glad to hear from HDB that they are making proper awnings as additional sunshade for market stalls facing Jalan Eunos and a footpath will be created linking block 3 to the new market/hawker centre. These are amenities which I believed the market/hawker stallholders and the market patrons will enjoy.

13 Many people have contributed towards this happy outcome. On this special and joyous occasion, I would like to end by wishing all market and hawker stallholders in our Eunos Crescent new Market - 'Sheng Yi Xing Rong' 'Wan Shi Ru Yi' (Prosperous and Success & happiness in Every Endeavour).

National Archives of Singapore