

(32)

TEXT OF SPEECH MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN, RURAL BOARD, MR. P.H. MEADOWS, MADE AT THE OPENING OF PASIR RIS BEACH RESORT ON SUNDAY, AUG. 17

First of all I should like to say that members of the Rural Board are very glad to welcome you here this afternoon to this official opening of the Pasir Ris Beach Resort. To the Chief Minister we should like to say how appreciative we are that he was able to accept our invitation, although it may have meant giving up precious leisure time or having to postpone work on other important matters. However, I hope that we shall be able to offer you a relaxing morning with entertainment and perhaps entice you into the sea.

This Beach Resort is almost but not quite completed. We intend to provide a few more shelters and seats and plant shade trees, and to do a little more levelling and turfing. The work so far carried out has cost \$131,790 the biggest item of which was the construction of the sea wall and steps which has cost \$55,771. The cost of the land amounting to 14½ acres, amounted to \$480,000. The total cost of the scheme came to \$641,000. As you know, the Rural Board has developed facilities at Changi, and along Nicoll Drive which, over the years, have cost \$1½ million. Development projects of this sort are not paid out of Rural Board revenue, but are paid from the Rural Board Development Estimates which are a direct Government grant. We are therefore very grateful to Government for monies which enabled us to carry out these recreation schemes. The work itself, as are all these projects in the Rural Board area, was carried out by the Rural Branch of the Public Works Department.

The facilities which we offer here, at Changi and Nicoll Drive are not of course for the sole use of the rural people, but are there for everyone's enjoyment. It is probably true to say that far more city people make use of these facilities than rural people. We hope that these modest facilities here and at Changi, although not in themselves sufficiently glamorous to attract tourists will at least offer a diversion to tourists who are already here and wish to bathe in the sea. A further scheme which is under consideration is for the development of a small beach resort at Tanjong Irau, at the end of Andrews Road, which is off the 15 m.s. Sembawang Road.

As you will see from your programme, we are to be given a demonstration by the Singapore Life Guard Corps of life-saving and scientific swimming and an exhibition of water skiing by the Malaya Water Ski Association. I should like to say how grateful we are to both these associations for agreeing to stage performances here this afternoon for our benefit. I must say that the programme looks very attractive. I should also like to thank the Life Guard Corps for life-saving service it provides at Changi and Telok Paku and has agreed to provide here. As a matter of interest, the U.K. newspaper last week report that Prince Philip is interesting himself in the promotion of a Life Guard Corps in the U.K. This is a public service which is very worthwhile, and the Rural Board intends to assist the Corps with establishing posts and in various other ways.

August 17, 1958.

(Time issued 1000 h)