

Singapore Government **PRESS RELEASE**

Information Division, Ministry of Culture, City Hall, Singapore 0617 • tel: 3378191 ext. 352,353,354/3362207/3362271

14-1/81/01/10

SPEECH BY MR TEH CHEANG WAN, MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE PAN-ISLAND EXPRESSWAY BETWEEN JALAN EJUNOS AND EAST COAST PARKWAY ON SATURDAY, 10 JANUARY 1981 AT 11.00 AM

The completion of the Pan-Island Expressway between Jalan Ejunos and the East Coast Parkway marks a significant milestone in the development of the PIE, construction of which commenced in 1964. With the completion of this stretch of the expressway, 72 per cent of the total length of the PIE is now operational.

The last two decades have seen unprecedented economic progress for Singapore. Economic growth has been accompanied by intensive physical development in all parts of the island. New towns, industrial estates, commercial complexes and recreational facilities have sprung up everywhere. All these developments can function well only if there is an efficient network of roads, expressways and flyovers to facilitate the movement of people and goods. In the six years between 1974 and 1980, there has been a 32 per cent increase in the number of public and private vehicles in Singapore.

The development of roads is therefore an integral and critical component of comprehensive physical development. In the last 10 years, the Public Works Department has constructed many new roads, expressways and flyovers and widened existing ones. Trees and shrubs have been planted along roadside verges and central medians to make our roads greener, cleaner and more pleasant to use. The annual expenditure on road projects has increased by 2 times from \$12.7 million in 1970 to \$155.8 million in 1979. In the current fiscal year, road development expenditure will reach \$165 million.

In the construction of expressways, good progress has been achieved. While 10 years ago, there was only a total of 4 km of expressways, today, we have 48 km. When the viaduct of the East Coast Parkway

...../2.

between Fort Road and Collyer Quay is completed in September 81, another 5.6 km will be added to our network of expressways. The PWD is drawing up plans for three other expressway systems - namely the Central, Sembawang and Bukit Timah Expressways. Priority sections of these expressways are scheduled for completion in late 1984.

The Pan-Island Expressway will provide a high speed link between Changi Airport and Jurong. Development of the PIE was undertaken in four phases, comprising Phase I between Jalan Eunos and Thomson Road, Phase II from Thomson Road to Jalan Anak Bukit, Phase III from Jalan Eunos to Changi Airport and Phase IV between Jalan Anak Bukit to Jalan Boon Lay. The entire system including all the interchanges will be completed by 1982. The fuel savings generated by the smoother and shorter travel along the PIE would easily exceed \$10 million a year. However, of greater importance are the unquantifiable benefits which road users can enjoy in terms of faster commuting time, less frustration and stress, and ultimately, safer and more pleasant travelling.

To ensure safety in high speed travelling on expressways, the PWD in collaboration with the ROV and the Traffic Police, will soon promulgate the Expressway Traffic Rules. Under the Rules, vehicles will not be permitted to stop on the expressways. Vehicles which have broken down will have to pull up to a paved lane called the expressway shoulder. Adequate telephones are being installed along the expressways to facilitate communication. These amenities are provided for the convenience and safety of all road users.

It now gives me great pleasure to declare open this section of the PIE between Jalan Eunos and the East Coast Parkway.
