SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

PUBLICITY DIVISION · MINISTRY OF CULTURE · CITY HALL SINGAPORE 6

MC/AUG/3/77 (National Development)

and
Records Centre, Singapore.
6 AUG 1977
Acc No. MARC
77 0030 44

SPEECH BY DR TAN ENG LIANG, SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE (NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) AT THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE EAST COAST PARKWAY PHASE IV PROJECT AT TANJONG RHU RECLAIMED SITE ON TUESDAY, 2 AUGUST 1977 AT 12.00 NOON

The East Coast Parkway is one of several expressways which have been planned to serve the long term transportation needs of Singapore. It runs along the East Coast Reclaimed Land from the Changi Airport, which is now under construction, to Tanjong Rhu. From there, it proceeds across the reclaimed land in front of Nicoll Highway where it then swings southwards across the waterway at the entrance of the Singapore River and then continues through Keppel Road.

In conjunction with the planned Jurong Expressway it will provide a high capacity route for east-west traffic movement. The implementation of Phase IV of the East Coast Parkway puts into reality a major component of the transportation plan for Singapore which was developed during the period 1967 to 1971.

Tenders for this Fourth Phase of the Expressway from Tanjong Rhu to Keppel Road were invited as early as 1975. In 1976, tender proposals were received and carefully evaluated by the Public Works Department before award of the contract to M/s Sato Kogyo Company at a sum of $161.5 million. This Company would be responsible for all works related to site investigation, design and construction. Work on this 5.6 km expressway is expected to be completed by the end of 1980.

A special feature of this scheme is the high level bridge across Kallang Basin which continues as an overhead bridge thereafter to the Singapore River and across it. Shipyards which may have had previous misgivings about a low-level basoule bridge, with certain hours of restriction to navigation when the bridge is down, should now have no cause for worry. They can proceed

...../2.

to implement any expansion programme of their shipyards. Another advantage of having a continuous elevated structure with fairly long spans, between Kallang Basin and the Singapore River, which we have chosen is the ease of future cross-communication between parcels of land on both sides of the expressway.

Many alternative recommendations were put forward before implementation of this stretch of the East Coast Parkway as its location is vital in terms of aesthetics as well as effective mobility for our population. This portion of the East Coast Parkway would provide the necessary direct link between the Central Business District and the various population catchments to the East, West and North of it. It would also significantly relieve the present congestion along the inner ring road system at Newton, Scotts, Paterson, Outram Roads as well as the streets in the city to provide residents and workers with the mobility essential for the efficient functioning of our City.

It now gives me great pleasure to drive the first pile of this project.

2 AUGUST 1977

- - - - - -