

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE SECOND
READING OF THE STATE OF SINGAPORE BILL,
1959 on 23 APRIL, 1959

I beg to move that a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to provide for amendment of the laws of the Federation arising out of the establishment of the State of Singapore" be read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is simply to provide that when Singapore becomes a State the change in name and status which this entails, together with certain consequential changes in titles, shall be reflected in the wording of our Federation laws. I need not say more about the Bill as such, but I wish to take this opportunity of saying a few words about the great event which occasions this small piece of legislation.

I know that I speak not only for my colleagues in the government and myself but also for all members of the Council and for the people of this country, when I say that it gives the Federation the greatest pleasure today to anticipate the transition of our neighbour Singapore to the next stage of constitutional development. We have followed with close interest the negotiations leading up to the establishment of the State of Singapore. We have been pleased to see the talks proceeding in an atmosphere of goodwill, and we admire the way in which Tun Lim Yew Hock has led Singapore forward on the road to statehood. As the members of this Council are now aware, we have undertaken to play a part under the new Singapore Constitution in the maintenance of internal security by agreeing to appoint one of our Ministers to sit on the Singapore Internal Security Council.

The culminating point of all these discussions and negotiations has now been reached, and the time has come for us to express our congratulations to the people of Singapore on their progress, our hope that at the general elections, which will be held very soon, they will choose as their leaders those who have the interests of the new State truly at heart, and our sincere good wishes for the success of this new form of government.

In conclusion, may the Constitution of Singapore bring to the people of Singapore an era of peace, progress and enlightenment.

I beg to move.

¹ Ketua Menteri (Chief Minister)