

THE NEW STATE COURTS TOWERS TOPPING-OUT CEREMONY

Friday, 25 January 2019

Address by Justice See Kee Oon, Presiding Judge of the State Courts

The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon,
Judges of Appeal and Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts,
Attorney-General
Deputy Attorneys-General
Distinguished guests and fellow colleagues

1. Good morning and thank you for joining us this morning as we mark another milestone in the construction of the new State Courts Towers.
2. Less than two years ago, we gathered here to witness the commencement of the construction of the superstructure of the new State Courts Towers. Today, we mark the completion of that phase with this symbolic topping-out ceremony, upon completion of construction of the highest points of the two towers. As you can see, the towers, each 35 stories high, have already made their mark on the surrounding landscape – they are now the tallest structures in Chinatown.
3. In the next few months, the external facade will take on a harmonious blend of glass and greenery, in line with our nationwide drive towards urban greenery. The State Courts Towers also incorporate energy-saving technology into different aspects of its design, such as motion sensors, solar panels, rain water harvesting and “smart” building monitoring systems. These features contributed to the Towers being awarded the BCA Green Mark Award (Platinum) at last year’s BCA Awards.
4. With the completion of structural works, the project transitions to the final phase of interior construction. It is opportune for me to highlight some aspects of what we can expect to see inside the two Towers. One of the Towers is designed and will be fitted out to operate as the Court Tower while the other will function as the

Office Tower. The Towers are connected by 39 link bridges and this will allow court staff to move between the two towers with ease. The Court Tower will house 53 courtrooms and 53 hearing chambers, a significant increase from our existing premises. These courtrooms and chambers will be equipped with the necessary facilities and technology that will allow us to deliver justice in a timely and efficient manner and to meet the demands of an IT-connected community.

5. The podium level will house a theatrette, business centre and a cafeteria. A library and an auditorium will be in the basement. Apart from the library and the cafeteria, lawyers, court users and members of public will also be able to access the roof garden and sky terraces. These open spaces have been specifically included in the design of the Court Tower to provide a conducive space for all court users in what can sometimes be a stressful and intimidating environment.
6. As we celebrate this important milestone, on schedule, we acknowledge the fact that this has been made possible only by the hard work and dedication of many different parties. We extend our sincere appreciation to each and every stakeholder involved. Everyone has worked tirelessly to ensure that this modern, environment-friendly and secure structure is constructed safely and on time. What was once an abstract concept has now taken form, and will soon become our new home. There is another important group of persons I wish to recognise and thank: our neighbours, who have graciously and patiently put up with the inconvenience for the past five years.
7. The last leg of the construction work will be intensive but also immensely fulfilling. I am confident from what we have seen of our journey thus far that we will be able to see a successful completion of this project in 2019. It remains for me to thank the Honourable the Chief Justice for gracing this occasion as our Guest-of-Honour and also to thank all of you once again for taking time to be with us as our honoured guests this morning.