

LAUNCH OF THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF THE NEW STATE COURTS TOWERS
Friday, 17 March 2017

**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,
Deputy Attorneys-General
Distinguished guests and fellow colleagues

1. Good morning and thank you for joining us for this morning's ceremony to mark the commencement of the construction of the superstructure of the new State Courts Towers.
2. The existing State Courts building has served us well for the past 42 years, but it is unlikely that it will be able to support the long term demands on the Courts. To ensure that we have the necessary facilities and infrastructure to address our projected needs, expansion plans were made and the blueprint towards the construction of the new State Courts Towers was mapped out around 2011.
3. Piling work began in mid-2014 and in February 2016, the contract for the construction of the State Courts Towers was awarded to Samsung C&T Corporation. By May 2016, piling was completed and more than 120,000 cubic metres of soil has since been excavated.
4. The laying of foundations and construction of the basements have been progressing steadily. Building on firm foundations, we are ready today to install the very first beam of the superstructure of the new State Courts Towers. This is a very significant event for the State Courts as it marks the commencement of the building structure above ground level.
5. In this new complex, we can look forward to more than 60 courtrooms and over 50 hearing chambers housed in twin towers connected by a series of sky bridges. This will be an eco-friendly building featuring naturally-ventilated corridors and high-rise green features which will bring some welcome relief to the built-up vicinity.
6. The interior of the new State Courts Towers will feature user-centric design features and innovations for the benefit of our court users and staff. More updates and information will be given on these aspects as we progress towards future stages of construction. I look forward to sharing more about these exciting new developments in time to come.
7. The new State Courts Towers are on track to be operational from 2020. I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to those who have worked hard contributing towards this challenging and immense project. Your efforts have brought us to this phase of the construction project and will help make our plans a reality. Once again I wish to thank you all for joining us this morning.