

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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SPEECH BY MR. HO CHENG CHOON, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING
OF THE SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS' UNION ANNUAL WORK
CAMP ON SATURDAY, 28TH MAY, 1966 AT 9.30 A.M.

I am pleased to note that the institutions of higher learning today are becoming more and more concerned with the problems of the society. Their role in securing social changes aimed at uplifting the standard of living of the rural people cannot be over emphasized, especially in newly developed countries where the need for trained and effective leadership is an imperative in the process of nation-building.

The efforts and enthusiasm of the students of the Singapore Polytechnic in organising this Work Camp is commendable as it will, as a matter of course, create a better understanding between the intellectuals and the oft-forgotten masses. I am told that two roads - Jalan Penggaga and Jalan Alsagoff will be made up with the assistance of the residents of the area as well as members of the Citizen Consultative Committee. The Urban and Rural Service has contributed a sum of \$44,500/- towards the making up of these roads. All this is in keeping with the Government's policy to improve the living conditions of the rural population.

I have had the pleasure some three weeks ago to open a similar Work Camp at Chong Pang Village organised by the University of Singapore Students' Union. The marked awareness among the students in Singapore of the need to break away from the age-old impersonal isolation to form a functional and integral part of the community so as to render maximum service constitutes a revolutionary change in contemporary life. It is hoped that this trend will continue in order that a more enduring foundation of social reconstruction can be perpetuated. The other institutions of higher learning in Singapore will no doubt also strive to emulate the enterprising spirit shown by the Polytechnic students to achieve this goal.

Thus, it is with great pleasure that I now declare this Work Camp open.

MAY 28, 1966.

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