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SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

Speech by Inche Buang Omar Junid, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs, at the Kamala Club on 26th August, 1968.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank Kamala Club for having invited me to this function and to say a few words on this occasion.

I have been told that the Kamala Club has made efforts to collect donations for the National Defence Fund and has met with success in this move. The amount collected is immaterial, but it is the sense of loyalty and love for the country shown by the people that is important. And members of the Kamala Club have shown such feeling of loyalty and love for this country when they collected donations for the Fund.

When the collection of donations for the Defence Fund was proposed, many thought that such collection was difficult to carry out and would not receive full support, but you all know now that they were wrong. Not only the rich and the employers, but also labourers, staffs of business firms and Government departments, parents and children have donated to the Fund. The Singapore National Defence Fund now stands at \$6½ million and it is still rising. This is a sign that the people of Singapore realise that national defence is a duty which must be borne not only by the Government but also by all the people of Singapore, and I believe that the people of Singapore are ready at any time to play their part when they are called upon to make a contribution for the benefit of the nation and the people of Singapore.

Singapore may have to face difficulties but I believe the burden would become lighter if we, the people of Singapore, are united and bear it together with the Government.

National defence is a responsibility which cannot be overlooked. Our object in establishing a defence force is solely to safeguard the peace and security of our country and to face aggression from outside and not to dominate other countries. And, aggression from outside, I think, is unlikely because our policy is to be friendly with all countries in the world.

Our youths of all races and religions are actively serving in our armed forces and they are ready to sacrifice themselves for the people and the country. Therefore, as citizens of Singapore, we should serve with them in other ways, one of which has been demonstrated by the Kamala Club - to collect donations for the Defence Fund. This good example should be followed by other associations in Singapore.

In view of the limited time I have, that is all I can say to you and I hope the Kamala Club would continue to achieve success and work hard for the welfare and interests of the country and the people of Singapore. Thank you.

26TH AUGUST, 1968.

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