

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.00 A.M. ON 5.9.69

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Speech by Inche Buang bin Omar Junid,
Parliamentary Secretary (Social Affairs) at
the Receiving of gifts for Female Prison and
Perak House, on Friday 5th September, 1969
at 11.00 a.m. at the Ministry of Social Affairs
Conference Room.

It is my pleasure today to receive five sewing machines from Messrs. Shaw Brothers and a gas-cooker from Hock Hong Radio Service for use in the Female Prison at Moon Crescent and to thank them for their very kind gesture and public-spiritedness and I am quite sure the sewing machines and cooker would be invaluable in the centre and that many of the inmates would find them an asset in their training, which is aimed at their rehabilitation and preparing them for society and the home life they would go to on being released.

2. Unlike their counterparts of the male sex, they could not be given training such as carpentry and the more robust employment during the time they spend with us. These gifts would be most appreciated not only by the Department but by the female inmates who would gain their training in sewing, tailoring, embroidering, cake-making and general cooking, which would be useful for them.

3. I would also like to thank the Chinese Emporium, New World Amusement Park branch, for their donation of one sewing machine to Perak House, which I understand is urgently in need of one such machine to sew and mend the clothes of the young children resident there.

4. It is through generous donations like this and through the initiative of public-spirited individuals like Mr. Shaw Voe Meng that social projects are assisted in no small measure. The social institutions cannot depend wholly on Government funds because there are many urgent national projects which have to be attended to. The public, individuals as well as organisations, should come forward and offer whatever assistance they can. Happiness should be measured not so much by our own but by other people's. Very often a little donation goes a long way to promote the happiness of the less fortunate.

5. Once again I wish to thank Mr. Shaw Voe Meng, Hock Hong Radio Service and the Chinese Emporium, New World Amusement Park branch, for their generous gifts.