

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2.00 P.M. ON 31.12.69

Acc. No.

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Speech by Inche Buang bin Omar Junid,
Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry
of Social Affairs at the Balloting ceremony
for 824 units of 3-room improved flats at
Toa Payoh N'hood 1 Contract 4 & 7 under the
"Home Ownership for the People" Scheme at the
car park between Blocks 20 and 23, Lorong 7,
Toa Payoh on the 31st December, 1969 at 2.00 p.m.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to officiate this ballot to allocate 824 units of 3-room improved flat in Toa Payoh Estate. This ballot brings the total of about 24,000 units of flats sold to the public under Home Ownership Scheme. Today, we can say that Singapore's housing problem has been tackled with drive and imagination, and it has achieved remarkable results. Ten years back, applicants had to wait several years before they were allocated flats. Now, the process takes a very short time. If an applicant is not choosy, he or she will be allocated a flat in a week's time.

The Board's policy is to confine its activities to the Building of low-cost housing to meet the needs of those who without Government's assistance would not be in a position to rent or buy decent housing. With this in mind, the Board is selling its flats very much lower than the market value. The popularity achieved since the Home Ownership Scheme was launched in early 1964 has made the Board consider selling more flats to the people in the near future.

While appreciating the progress achieved by Housing and Development Board, we must not forget that Singapore is a small island. Land is scarce here and therefore emphasis must be put on industries to stabilize our economy. As a consequence, the Board has to build multi-storey flats to accommodate our increasing population.

It is my fervent hope that you will accept the flats you

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have balloted, even though they are on higher floors, or else you may have to wait for sometime before you can obtain a more decent flat for your family.

Thank you.