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SPEECH BY DR. AUGUSTINE H.H. TAN, M.P. FOR
WHAMPOA AND POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE PRIME
MINISTER AT THE HDB BALLOTING FOR FLATS AT
WHAMPOA DRIVE ON THURSDAY, 29 MARCH, 1972
AT 2.30 P.M.

It is a pleasure for me to officiate at this balloting of HDB flats. With each balloting, more people become proud owners of their own homes. This is a good and healthy thing from the point of view of social stability and progress.

The HDB has been improving on the designs of flats. The newer flats look attractive and the use of colours other than white has brightened up housing estates. I think it would be a good idea, if the HDB, in co-operation with flat owners, were to spend some money on art decorations like stone murals on the corner faces of each block. This would be expensive but could be implemented slowly over a period of time. Properly done, with artistic taste, this would make our housing estates a pleasure to look at, not only for us, but also for tourists.

The development of art and culture can occur naturally in a country which can afford it, but, in a developing country, it needs to be encouraged by public concern with aesthetic things. Poverty and drabness need not always go together - we can avoid drabness in our lives and our environment by a little imagination, by cultivating good taste and by common effort.

May I wish you all health and prosperity in your new homes?

Date : 29 March 1973