

Singapore Government

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SPEECH BY MR HARUN B A GHANI, POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS, AT THE GRASSROOTS LEADERS'
VISIT TO THE POLICE COAST GUARD, SUNDAY, 14 MARCH 1999 AT 9.00 AM

Grassroots Leaders

People's Association and Police officers

Ladies and Gentlemen

National Archives of Singapore
We are together at the first visit organised for grassroots leaders under the Community Focus Plan - a joint effort of the Community Development Councils and the Home Team. This visit is put together by the Singapore Police Force and People's Association.

2 The CFP is a programme where the community and the Home Team work closely to handle safety and security issues. The big plus point of the CFP is that grassroots can work with the Home Team to address their specific concerns. It is a pro-active approach that gives community leaders and residents greater say and involvement in their neighbourhood on matters of safety and security. It also helps build up community spirit. This is good for nation-building.

3 As grassroots leaders working with the Home Team on the CFP, you may have been approached by residents for advice on safety and security issues. Visits like

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this will allow you to meet the Home Team in their place of action, get a better feel of the issues, and get to know them better. Today's visit, for example, will help us better understand the threat illegal immigrants can pose to law and order, and why it is important for the Police Coast Guard to remain alert to what is happening in our waters.

4 The economic downturn and the regional problems remind us that the peace and stability we have built up carefully over the years should not be taken for granted. We must be aware of what is happening outside Singapore. At the same time we must build up stronger, caring communities within Singapore. This will help us handle problems better.

5 Visits like this bring grassroots leaders and the Home Team closer. More should be done on a regular basis to further strengthen this bond. I wish all of you a fruitful visit and continued success in making Singapore a safe and secure home for all of us.

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