

# *Singapore Government*

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**SPEECH BY MR HARUN A GHANI POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE  
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AT  
THE SCDF & SPF HOME TEAM NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING VISIT  
2000 AT CIVIL DEFENCE ACADEMY ON THURSDAY, 24 AUGUST 2000  
AT 3.30 PM**

Commissioner Khoo Boon Hui

Commissioner James Tan

Employers and wives of our NS men

Ladies and Gentlemen

### **National Service in the Home Team**

I warmly welcome you to the Civil Defence Academy and the fourth National Service (NS) Training Visit. Today, we will be witnessing a joint demonstration by SCDF and Police NSmen. This illustrates the strong bond, camaraderie and spirit shared between the Home Team agencies. This synergy among the Home Team Departments is an important feature, which ensures success whenever we have to conduct joint operations, in the course of keeping the

nation safe and secure.

2. Today's visit is organised to give you a deeper appreciation and understanding of the NS obligations of your employees and husbands. We hope that through the demonstrations and static display, you will have a better insight into the types of training our NSmen undergo and the important role they play in Total Defence.

### **Employers of NSmen – Stakeholders in the Home Team**

3. In today's dynamic environment, the recent regional economic crises has driven home the fact that the safety and security of the nation can never be taken for granted. Our Home Team NSmen form the pillars of both the SPF and SCDF. You bring with you experiences and knowledge of working in the private sector, to complement the skills and knowledge of regular officers. Together you will help produce an even stronger safety and security system for our nation.

4. While the Home Team is strong because of the selfless contribution of NSmen, its strength is also a testimony of the strong understanding, support and active contribution that employers have given to National Service.

5. Employers should give their whole-hearted support to their NSmen employees and to the Total Defence of the nation. While you sacrifice by not having the services of your NSmen employees for two weeks, you will reap the benefits of National Service training. A strong credible force of NSmen is a requisite for social and economic stability. Also, after the respective in-camp training, your employees return to work, disciplined and fitter. I believe you understand the importance and necessity of National Service. Many of you are NSmen yourselves. The sacrifices and adjustments that you, as employers, have to make to accommodate the national interest in Total Defence are commendable.

### **Facilities for NSmen**

6. National service in the Home Team is not all work and no play. The CDANS Country Club has just opened its second wing. Built at a cost of about six million dollars, this extension includes an air rifle range and a 24-lane bowling alley. The ten-bay electronic shooting air rifle range is the first of its kind in Singapore. Employers who are existing or future corporate members and NSmen can now enjoy these new facilities.

7. Moreover, in July 2001, the new SPANS/JOM clubhouse for police officers and PNSmen at Jalan Rajah Road will be ready. SPANS/JOM looks forward to sharing this new facility with award winning employers of our NSmen.

### **A Knowledge-Based economy & National Service**

8. And as we move towards a knowledge-based economy, continual and lifelong learning must be inculcated in each and every one of us. To encourage continuous learning, NSmen can now look forward to four scholarship schemes. Both the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) and the Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS) are sponsoring this programme to support and recognise the contributions of NSmen towards the defence of the nation. This also reflects the continuous effort made by CDANS and SPANS to enrich and educationally upgrade its members.

### **Appreciation for Employers and Wives of NSmen**

9. In closing, I would like to thank all the employers and wives who have taken time off to join us for this afternoon's visit. I am sure that with this visit, you will be able to gain a deeper appreciation and understanding into the importance of our NSmen. With this, I am confident that you will continue to give your fullest support to our NSmen. Their involvement and your support are needed to keep Singapore a safe and secure best home.

10. Thank you.