MC/APR/26/77(National Development)

SPEECH BY MR HO CHENG CHOON, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FOR GEYLANG EAST ON 'YOUTH CONSTITUENCY ROAD RUN' ORGANIZED
BY GEYLANG EAST C.C. YOUTH COMMITTEE ON 24.4.77 AT 7.30 A.M.

I am happy to be present here this morning to witness the
Road Run organised by the Youth Committee of Geylang East C.C.

Credit must go to the organisers for their initiative and the
time spent in organising this event. I am told that the response
has been very encouraging. Altogether, about 300 youths will be
taking part in the Road Run. The large number of participants is a
reflection of the keen interest shown by youths in pursuing healthy
recreational activities.

More such activities should be organised on a regular basis
for the benefit of youths who form a large proportion of our
population. I hope that through participation in such activities
the youths will develop keen minds and healthy bodies, both of which
qualities are essential for national development.

We know that in many countries the youths have been neglected
and left to fend for themselves. Inevitably they land themselves in
trouble which very often upset the social order and lead to chaos.
This is the sort of thing we do not want in Singapore. It does
nobody any good.

Community leaders, therefore, have an important role to play
in channelling the energy of youths into healthy recreational
activities and other forms of constructive pursuits. The youths
themselves must learn to accept what is good and discard what is bad
for them. In this way, they will grow up into responsible adulthood.

Nobody owes anybody a living. We all have to organise our-
selves and work hard both in work and in play. This is the message
I want to pass on to the participants in today's Road Run. I hope
you will also tell your friends about it.

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