

# SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR HO CHENG CHOON, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE OPENING OF THE  
"ROAD SAFETY EXHIBITION" ORGANISED BY THE GEYLANG EAST  
CONSTITUENCY ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN WORKING COMMITTEE &  
THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE AT SING AVEENUE COMMUNITY  
CENTRE ON 12 AUGUST 1977 AT 7.30 P.M.

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The "Road Safety Exhibition" organised by the Geylang East Constituency Road Safety Campaign Working Committee and the Singapore Police Force is timely. It aims to reinforce the current Road Safety Campaign which has been launched to remind road users about road hazards and inculcate discipline among them.

In the past few years, we have witnessed an alarming deterioration in the number of road accidents which involved the drivers and pedestrians. They are caused by inconsiderate, careless and reckless drivers and pedestrians who jaywalked. There is still a great deal of selfishness and lack of courtesy and consideration for other road users on the roads. Bad habits die hard. Nevertheless, they must be eradicated for the good of the community at large. In any society, the vast majority is always law abiding and willing to do the right thing. It is the recalcitrant minority that cause all the problems whether they be road accidents or deaths. They will have to face the penalties of the law if they persist in disobeying or ignoring safety rules on the roads.

The Government has taken various preventive measures to make the roads safer for all road users. Road safety is simply a matter of acquiring good road discipline and habits. The driver behind his wheel usually has a tendency to drive fast and unless he is reminded that he is not the only road user, he would tend to forget to be considerate and careful. The pedestrian, on the other hand, becomes a casualty often because he prefers to take a shortcut when crossing the roads, not fully realising that it is shortcut to death. A few minutes of waiting or a few metres' walk to a designated crossing would have meant safety and a longer life.

The Pedestrian Crossing Rules have come into effect on 1 July this year but will be enforced from 1 September, making it compulsory for all pedestrians to utilise crossing facilities provided when crossing the roads. Pedestrians who fail to do so when crossing the roads will be liable to a fine. Similarly, motorists will be fined or imprisoned for not giving way to pedestrians at crossings. They have been given ample notice and time to comply with these rules. There is no valid excuse for not observing the safety rules on the roads after 1 September. It is hoped that with the enforcement of these rules there will be a marked improvement in road safety and a corresponding decline in the in the number of accidents on the road.

Ultimately all these measures can only be successful and the number of road accidents reduced if each of us is mindful of road safety. The public can help to stamp out inconsiderate drivers by reporting them to the police. I would like to urge all road users to realise that road hazards exist every minute of the day, that roads are meant to be shared by all road users, whether drivers or pedestrians, and that consideration and courtesy must be given to others in the interest of one's own safety and that of others. In this way, our roads will be made safer for everyone.

The adults must at all times set a good example for the young, especially school children, to emulate. It is a responsibility which every parent, teacher and civic-minded citizen must discharge fully. It must be a sustained effort so that the young will be imbued with courtesy and consideration for others as part of character formation and grow up into responsible adulthood. There is nothing to lose really but much to gain by being courteous and considerate to all.

We have made Singapore green and clean. Now we can move collectively to make it safer for all road users.

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