

# Singapore Government **PRESS RELEASE**

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SPEECH BY MR LEE YIOK SENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT), AT THE OPENING OF THE CRIME PREVENTION EXHIBITION AT BLOCK 22, MARSILING DRIVE, ON SUNDAY, 7 MARCH 1982 AT 10 AM

Singapore, compared with other cities, has managed to keep the crime rate relatively low. This is due, in no small measure, to the alertness of the police force which has secured over the last few years a greater degree of cooperation from the citizens. But we cannot afford to be complacent. As long as human beings group together, there is always the odd element who, for one reason or another, breaks the rules that govern how the community should behave for the common good. Thus, in Bukit Panjang constituency, there were 171 cases of common crimes committed in 1981 compared with 142 cases in 1980, an increase of some 20 per cent. The most common crimes are robbery, housebreaking, outrageous modesty, motor vehicle thefts and cases of vandalism.

Police studies have shown that most of the crimes committed in Singapore could have been prevented. Indeed, it would save a lot of pain and heartache if crimes could be prevented before they have an opportunity to occur. The police, because of its limited resources, will need the support of every citizen in preventing crime. Left on its own, the police's effectiveness in this area is relatively restricted.

The best way the public can play the part in crime prevention is to be aware of, and practise, certain simple concepts. For this reason, this exhibition is brought right to the doorstep of our constituents to provide them with the know-how to prevent crime. This exhibition, jointly organised by the Jurong Police Station and the Bukit Panjang Residents' Committee Zone A and B, is comprehensive and details the various preventive measures known to be effective.

The highlight ....2/-

The highlight of the exhibition is the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Being a mutual assistance scheme, it seeks to create a caring neighbourhood where residents from each group look after each other's family and unattended property. Through the scheme, we hope to minimise the opportunity for crime by raising the level of alertness of the residents.

To sustain interest in the scheme, the police have recently introduced a newsletter entitled "Crime in Your Neighbourhood". This newsletter is being sent to keep members abreast of the crime situations in their neighbourhood and inform them of the ways to prevent crime.

In our constituency, more Neighbourhood Watch Groups can be formed. I have no doubt that after the exhibition, our constituents will seek the assistance of the Jurong Police Station to set up the Watch Groups. RC members and myself will also be more than ready to help in their formation.

May I now take the opportunity to thank all those who have in one way or another helped to make this exhibition a success. I have no doubt that the knowledge imparted will be put to good use by our constituents.

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