

# SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

PUBLICITY DIVISION · MINISTRY OF CULTURE · CITY HALL SINGAPORE 6

National Archives and  
Records Centre, Singapore.

25 JUN 1977

MG/JUN/24/77 (SOCIAL AFFAIRS)

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS, ENCIK OTHMAN HOK,  
AT THE OPENING OF THE ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN AT THE PASIR  
PANJANG COMMUNITY CENTRE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1977 AT 7.30 P.M.

Acc. No.

NARC

17	0060	42
----	------	----

1. Accident statistics in the last few years have indicated that the situation on our roads has not shown any improvement. In the last five years, 1,625 people have been killed on the roads with 14,166 seriously injured and 35,824 slightly injured. You can well imagine the sufferings of the families of those killed or seriously wounded and the loss to society as a result of road accidents. The 51,615 people who were road casualties were unnecessary and wasteful. All road users are to be blamed for this state of affairs - the drivers, motor-cyclists, cyclists and pedestrians.

2. Bad habits die hard. Road safety is a matter of acquiring good road discipline and habits. The driver behind his wheel has a tendency to drive fast and unless he is mindful that he is not the only road user will forget to be considerate. The pedestrian becomes a casualty often because he wants to take a short cut, not realising that it is a short cut to the grave. The few minutes of waiting or

a few metres to walk to a crossing would have meant a longer and healthier life. Another category of dangerous road users is of course the motor-cyclists. The young hell racers often do not realise that they are most vulnerable to road accidents and can be flung off their machines at any time. The darting of a cat across the road or an oily patch could be fatal for the motor-cyclist who travels fast.

3 It has been found that people tend to forget the value of their lives on the roads after a while. They have to be constantly reminded that it is for their own safety that they should observe good safety habits on the roads. Various measures will be implemented by the Government to help remind the recalcitrants that they must observe the rules of safety. The inconsiderate and reckless drivers will be severely punished and these include drivers of heavy vehicles as well as motor-cyclists. The jaywalkers will be fined and will have to learn the hard way for their own safety.

4 Ultimately all these measures can only be successful and the number of road casualties may be reduced if each of us is mindful of road safety. We must all constantly remember that it needs only a

split second of carelessness or inconsiderate behaviour before we will end up as a casualty of a road accident. Parents should teach the importance of road safety to their children and above all, should show good examples. It will also be of great help to the Police and to help in stamping out inconsiderate drivers if members of the public would note down the numbers of vehicles which are driven recklessly on the roads. The show-off who weaves in and out of traffic should be taught a lesson and if necessary be deprived of his licence so that he is not a menace on our roads. The numbers of these vehicles can be reported to the Police and investigations will be conducted. If the culprits are found guilty, they will be punished. If everyone of us exercises our civic rights and reports reckless drivers, then our roads may be safer for us and our families.

5           It is hoped that this Campaign on Road Safety and Accident Prevention will give you an idea of the dos and don'ts on the roads. These should be cultivated as good habits.

6           I have great pleasure in declaring open this Road Safety Campaign in our Constituency.