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WELCOMING ADDRESS BY MR TER TIEN SIEW, CHAIRMAN, KATONG CITIZENS' CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE CRIME PREVENTION AND ANTI-DRUG ABUSE EXHIBITION AND RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEER PROBATION OFFICERS CAMPAIGN ON FRIDAY, 27 MAY 1977 AT 8.00 PM IN FRONT OF THE KATONG COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mr J F Conceicao, MP for Katong, Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1 Welcome to the opening of the Crime Prevention and Anti-Drug Abuse Exhibition and the Recruitment of Volunteer Probation Officers Campaign in our Katong Constituency.

2 My Committee and I are extremely grateful to Mr J F Conceicao, MP for Katong for his presence this evening and for kindly consenting to declare open the exhibition and present certificates of Appointment to Gazetted Volunteer Probation Officers.

3 A high incidence of crime, delinquency and drug abuse is often found in a neighbourhood where there is a lack of constructive influences, solidarity and social consciousness among its residents and where there is a lack of proper parental care and control over the welfare and activities of the children.

4 We are fortunate to live in the midst of a green belt with spacious and sprawling parks. We are close to the seaside. We have ample facilities for recreational and sporting activities. We have a large number of industries in which our residents work within easy reach of their homes. We have a cluster of educational, social and religious institutions. Indeed, life in Katong provides for pleasant and gracious living conditions.

5 Nevertheless, there is still some crime, delinquency and drug abuse in our midst, some of which are perpetuated by those living outside our neighbourhood. We have to stop them from creating difficulties in our neighbourhood. We have to prevent our own children from causing trouble to themselves and their parents in our neighbourhood and elsewhere.

6 We must be vigilant. We must be public-spirited. We must work closely and in co-operation with the police and Central Narcotics Bureau to ferret out criminals, secret society elements and drug pushers from our neighbourhood.

7 To be effective, however, we must also have a basic understanding of the mechanics of preventing criminal activities. We must be sufficiently acquainted with the problems and needs of our children so that they do not become drug addicts or juvenile delinquents. And, more importantly, those who are unfortunately caught in the snare of drugs or have offended or on the verge of getting into difficulties must be reclaimed. Sometimes, parents have waited too long before seeking professional help for their children's difficulties. We must therefore know what to do with them and where we could obtain necessary help and assistance for their problems.

8 This is why we have brought the Crime Prevention and Anti-Drug Abuse Exhibition and the Recruitment of Volunteer Probation Officers Campaign to our neighbourhood.

9 We hope the Exhibition will inform the residents, employers and others in a position of influence:

a) on how to prevent crime in their homes, factories, schools, shopping complexes and neighbourhood;

b) on the harmful effects and social consequences of drug abuse;

c) how to recognise early symptoms of drug abuse and pre-delinquent behaviour;

d) how to seek help and assistance for their children who have offended or troubled with drugs or are beyond parental control; and

e) on the work of Volunteer Probation Officers in providing assistance and guidance to children with problems.

10 I thank the Probation and Aftercare Service, the Crime Prevention Unit of the Joo Chiat Police Station and the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association for arranging the exhibition. I am also grateful to the Principal, Broaderick School, for the attendance of his School Band and all others who have helped us in one way or other to make the exhibition and campaign to recruit

Volunteer Probation Officers a useful exercise for our neighbourhood.

11 I am pleased to announce that Vosper Thornycraft (Pte) Ltd and Singapore Slipway & Engineering Pte Ltd have come forward to sponsor the whole project, as members of the Katong Neighbourhood. This fine gesture on the part of these two industrial organisations and the response from other employers in our neighbourhood to provide job opportunities to those who have been rehabilitated, are most welcome and timely.

12 It is now my pleasure to call upon Mr J F Conceicao, MP for Katong to address us, present certificates to Gazetted Volunteer Probation Officers and declare open the Exhibition.

Thank you.

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