

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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Speech by Encik Othman Wok, Minister for  
Social Affairs, at the Lions Club of  
Singapore Central 13th Installation Dinner  
to be held at the French Restaurant,  
Cockpit Hotel, on 28 Jun 75 at 8 pm

Mr President, Ladies & Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to be present here this evening at the  
13th Installation Dinner of the Lions Club of Singapore Central.

I would like to congratulate the new President and members of the  
new Committee on their appointment. I am confident that under  
their leadership, the Club will continue to contribute  
significantly towards community welfare in the Republic.

2        Lions are distinguished by their big and generous heart,  
and their deep concern for the well-being of their fellowman.

Many of you are leaders in your own right, and you are indeed  
in a better position than the average Singaporean to lend a  
helping hand to the less fortunate members of our community. By  
coming together and pooling your resources, you have formed a strong  
movement to serve the needy and the underprivileged. There is  
no limit to what we can do to serve others, and we must constantly  
plan ahead so that we will be ever prepared to respond to new  
areas of need.

3

Welfare services must continue even in times of

recession and economic uncertainty. Indeed, in such a situation, demands will be more urgent and pressing, while the public response to charitable purposes will tend to decline as people have less to spare for others. Under such circumstances, more organised efforts would be required to undertake fund-raising projects and to rally the support of voluntary workers so that welfare services can be maintained and voluntary charitable organisations can continue to function satisfactorily. Although the Government provides comprehensive social welfare services for the population, such facilities should be supplemented by private programmes of aid. In this regard, we are fortunate to have many voluntary welfare organisations in the Republic to care for the handicapped, the sick and the aged. However, such organisations would normally require the support of the public and concerned groups like yours in order to operate and carry out their numerous activities. The need for funds and voluntary workers can never be completely satisfied, and there will always be new challenges for us to meet and overcome.

4           We should all share the spirit of 'lionism' which is the willingness to serve, and through our example and enthusiasm, I am sure many others will be inspired to come forward and render their services as well. If each of us could sacrifice a little of our time for the community, a great deal could be achieved to improve the well-being of our fellow citizens! Needless to say, by helping to bring happiness to others, we also enrich our own life and broaden our experience. Our reward is a sense of satisfaction and fulfilment which money cannot buy.

5           'Lionism' has proved to be a highly efficient force for united community effort, and all over the world, Lions have exerted their influence on important issues of national welfare. We have seen Lions at work in Singapore, and the results are indeed impressive. Many charitable institutions have benefited from this movement, and today about thirty thousand dollars will be presented to the Tampines Home for Retarded Children Building Fund Committee in aid of a worthy cause. The Organising Committee of the Taekwon-Do Tournament is to be congratulated for this successful fund-raising venture.

6           I am confident that through your fearlessness,  
imagination and enterprise, your organisation will continue  
to contribute significantly towards community welfare in the  
Republic. I would like to wish the new Committee every success  
in their endeavours.

Thank you.

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