

SPEECH BY TUAN HAJI SHA'ARI TADIN, SR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (CULTURE) AND MP FOR KG CHAI CHEE AT THE CHILDREN'S PARTY ORGANISED BY THE KG CHAI CHEE CITIZENS' CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - AREA III SUB-COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY 10 AUGUST 1975 AT 3.00 P.M.

I am happy to be with you today at this Children's Party held in conjunction with the 10th National Day Celebrations.

Singapore is a small country with a young population. The emphasis on young people in our educational, social and cultural development is an indication of our deep interest in the coming generations. Children of today are the leaders of tomorrow. The future well-being of our society depends on the quality of our young. It is therefore the responsibility of our society to provide for every child, the best possible environment for his physical, intellectual and moral development. Equally important, parents must play their vital supportive role in the education and development of their children.

Parents not only has an obligation to look after their children well and to bring them happiness and a better life, they have also the responsibility to guide their mental and moral development by systematically inculcating the correct values and attitudes in their children during their formative years. Among others, the values which are vital to our survival and continued progress in this turbulent world include thrift, honesty, hard work, discipline, respect for elders, concern for fellow citizens, self-sacrifice and loyalty to the country. Parents should not rely on the school as the sole centre for education and moral development of their children. Apart from better coordination and cooperation between parents and school, there should be personal involvement to ensure that the mental and spiritual development of their children is not adversely affected by unhealthy and harmful activities.

In the present-day society, with its many attractions and undesirable influences from the West, it is too easy for our youth to be led astray. Unfortunately, as a result of rapid economic development in recent years, there is a tendency for parents in Singapore to overemphasise the material well-being of families, thus neglecting the moral development of their children. It is sheer stupidity to believe that money and improved physical amenities could provide solutions to such problems as juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, rejection of traditional values and anti-social behaviour.

It is my sincere hope that parents in this Constituency will spend more time on helping their children to acquire the correct values and attitudes, so that they are able not only to withstand the onslaught of the negative destructive element of counter cultures, but also to play a useful role in nation building. In order to provide the favourable conditions for proper education and moral development of their children, there is no better way than to promote healthy family relationship and set an example worthy of respect and emulation by their life and behaviour.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Kampong Chai Chee Citizens' Consultative Committee - Area III Sub-Committee for their efforts in organising this Children's Party.

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AUGUST 10, 1975.