

Speech by Encik Othman Wok, Minister for Social Affairs, at the balloting ceremony for Housing & Development Board Flats at Ghim Moh Estate held on Friday, 26 Sep 75 at 2.30 pm at car park between Blocks 4 and 5, Ghim Moh Road

This afternoon's balloting ceremony is for the sale of flats under the Home Ownership for the People Scheme in the Ghim Moh Estate. Those of you who were former residents of Ghim Moh Village will know that this new Estate has been named after the Kampong that used to be here. Although Ghim Moh is going to be a modern Housing Estate, the intrinsic features of Ghim Moh have been retained. Its identity for instance, has been deliberately kept, although it is only a walk away from the Buona Vista and Queenstown Housing Estates.

2 When completed around the middle of next year, Ghim Moh will have 4,028 dwelling units to provide homes for about 20,000 people. The 32½-hectare site, bounded by the railway line in the East, the proposed Commonwealth Avenue Extension in the South and Sungei Ulu Pandan in the West, will command a magnificent view of the lowlying suburbs. The Ghim Moh Centre located at the heart of the Estate will have a market-cum-hawker centre, shops and eating houses. Two sites have

been reserved for schools. A junior college will be built on the larger site while the other will have a secondary and two primary schools. A community centre with a basketball court has also been planned, and in addition, residents of this Estate will be able to take advantage of the facilities at the swimming complex which is being built in the Buona Vista Estate.

3 As more and more people begin to settle in this Western part of the island, it is my hope that all residents in the HDB estates will establish a cohesive and tightly-knit community. This will make living in an estate so much more pleasant and congenial for everyone. You, the new residents of Ghim Moh, can start by establishing the close links among neighbours that previously existed in Ghim Moh Village.

4 You could perhaps form a Residents' Association to organise social functions, sports and other worthwhile activities to help foster friendship ties amongst the neighbours. Through such an Association, you could also discuss common problems and devise mutual aid programmes to help each other in times of need. I am sure there are leaders amongst you who will take the initiative to find ways and means of building up a strong community spirit

in this new Estate. Needless to say, this is very important and will go a long way to make your life here a meaningful and joyful experience.

5 I am confident that you will make good use of the various social amenities that will be provided, and contribute towards creating a clean, healthy and friendly environment in this Estate.

6 I wish you all the best of luck and happiness in your new home.

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