

SPEECH BY MR ONG SOO CHUAN, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MP FOR NEE SOON AT
THE BALLOTING FOR THE SALE OF FLATS AT KALLANG BASIN
ESTATE ON WEDNESDAY 7 APRIL, 1976 AT 2.30 P.M.

The Housing & Development Board began redeveloping Kallang Basin ten years ago. The entire land area, which includes the existing residential houses and factories, is about 1,000 acres. About 500 acres of the total land used were former swamp land reclaimed by the Housing & Development Board. On this reclaimed land now stands HDB flats as well as new industries.

Kallang Basin Neighbourhood IV is the final stage of the re-development of Kallang Basin. Neighbourhood IV includes 192 units of 5-room flats which will be balloted today. By July this year, another 926 units of 3-room flats, 264 units of 4-room flats, 54 shops and 4 eating houses will be completed. There will also be a market with 234 stalls, of which 84 will sell food while the rest will sell market produce. With the completion of the Kallang Basin redevelopment, there will be about 20,000 housing units in the area accommodating about 100,000 people.

The success of the public housing project in Singapore is as much a credit to the Housing Development Board as to the people of Singapore. It is a success we can all rightly be proud of. But success must not end in merely the construction of the HDB flats. Success can only be meaningful if these flats and their facilities are properly maintained and utilised.

The proper maintenance and utilization of the flats and facilities, such as markets, restaurants and parks, must be a joint and conscious effort of both the tenants and the Housing & Development Board. It is therefore important that the owners and tenants of flats, shops and market stalls should have a strong sense of not only personal but collective belonging. Since we have paid more to acquire a better living environment, there is no reason for us to allow our surrounding environment to be polluted. They should individually and collectively ensure the cleanliness and proper maintenance of their flats, shops, market stalls and common properties such as the lifts, corridors, staircases and parks.

The majority of the Singapore people who are now owners or tenants of the HDB flats can be described as a privileged group in a world where proper accommodation remains a serious social problem. However, admittedly, with the progress and privileges that come with it, certain traditional even valuable patterns of living have to give way to progress. Among others, the hitherto large Asian family unit is breaking away. Married children leave their aged parents for new homes such as the smaller units of the Housing & Development Board.

All of us will appreciate that with an island of only 587.6 sq km and with a population of more than 2.2 million, there is a need to limit the growth of the population. The Government therefore encourages a 4-member family unit and discourages early marriages. However, in its drive to promote family planning, the Government is not only conscious of the difficulties of aged parents but also of their valuable contribution to their children. With more and larger units of 3 or more room flats being built by the Housing & Development Board, it would be convenient for young couples to accommodate their parents.

I share with you the joy and excitement of being new owners of the flats which are on ballot today. And with my best wishes, I declare the balloting open.

DATED: APRIL 7, 1976.

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