

SPEECH BY MR ONG SOO CHUAN, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT THE BALLOTING FOR THE
SALE OF FLATS AT ANG MO KIO NEW TOWN ON
TUESDAY, 29TH JUNE 1976 AT 2.00 PM

Since Independence, notwithstanding an increased population and profound changes in the international economic and political systems, and despite direct subversive influences, it is evident that the preponderant desire of the Singapore people is that our present form of society should be preserved.

2 While Singaporeans can take comfort in our record of achievement, it would be extreme folly to engage in a process of self-patronization. We must continue with our efforts to ensure the permanence of our form of society which has thus far stood the test.

3 The foundation of a good society can only be permanent if there is a general appreciation and intelligence among our people to discern what is essentially good for an enlightened society. The firmest ground for confidence in the future is that there is no alternative for Singapore except to have a society where democracy will ensure individual liberty. At the same time, we must have organisations and controls in order to ensure the wise use of power for the common good of the people of Singapore.

4 A distinguishing characteristic of modern civilization appears to be the multiplication of human wants. It is the right of the people to expect better accommodation, recreational facilities and other comforts which come with technological advancement. But modern life has become so highly integrated, so socialised, so definitely organic, that the individual can no longer live in isolation. This emphasizes that while the individual citizen will enjoy the fruits of common endeavour, he must discharge his own obligations and responsibilities. This is necessary if we are to have a harmonious and happy community.

Living in a housing estate is a clear example of a situation where for the common good of all, there must be a healthy blend of individual and community interests. Every flat owner must not only ensure the proper maintenance and cleanliness of his own flat but also community properties such as recreational facilities, lifts and common corridors.

5 I wish to congratulate all of you who will be proud owners of the 1,153 units of three and four-room New Generation flats which will be balloted today. These units are in 9 apartment blocks which are sited in Ang Mo Kio Neighbourhood 2. There are 8 blocks of three-room New flats with mixed units of four-room New flats at the end of corridors and one block of entirely all four-room flats.

6 Neighbourhood 2 is bounded on its peripheries by Sin Ming Industrial Estate, Faber Garden and Sembawang Hills Estate and Mayflower Garden. The major part of this neighbourhood will be completed by the end of this year. There will be a total of 7,900 units of one, two, three and four-room units in this neighbourhood, housing a population of around 39,000. A neighbourhood centre under construction and scheduled for completion around September 1976, will provide the facilities of a market, a hawker centre, 30 shops, a post office and two eating houses. A site in Neighbourhood 2 has been reserved for a community centre and three sites reserved for schools. There is also a children's playground between Blocks 213 and 214. In addition, there will be a recreation cum sports centre with facilities for sports like basketball, badminton and sepak raga next to the neighbourhood centre, facing Block 219.

7 Ang Mo Kio New Town which is sited north of Toa Payoh, will ultimately cover an area of 600 hectares. It will contain six neighbourhoods, each of which will be served by a neighbourhood centre in addition to the Ang Mo Kio Town Centre in the heart of the new town. When fully completed, the new town will provide 45,000 housing units for an estimated population of 200,000.

8 The town centre will be modelled very much like the one in Toa Payoh. There will be provisions for cinemas, a library, emporiums, supermarkets, a hawker centre, shops, a polyclinic, a post office and an area office. There are also plans for a sports complex complete with swimming pool and running track. A total of 13 sites have been allotted for schools; tentatively fixed at 13 secondary schools and 18 primary schools. Ang Mo Kio New Town will be served by a rapid mass transit road which will connect it to Toa Payoh and from Toa Payoh to the city.

9 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.

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