

(Embargoed until after delivery)

SPEECH BY MR LIM KIM SAN, MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS AND CHAIRMAN OF PUB, AT THE PUB LONG SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD AT PUB RECREATION CLUB ON 22 AUG 76 AT 7 P.M.

Tonight, 229 employees of the PUB are to be presented with Long Service Awards by the Board for having devoted 25 years of their life to serving the Board. My congratulations and good wishes to them for a happy and healthy life in retirement.

The demand for electricity, gas and water has been increasing year by year. More sophisticated equipment has to be provided to meet the rising demand. More skills are required to man this equipment. The price of oil is very high and wages too have gone up. To maintain prices, productivity must increase. Workers must become more efficient and there must be no malingering.

This year's NWC award reflects the strong emphasis placed on performance and productivity. Malingerers and unproductive workers will not receive their normal increment nor the NWC allowance. Only those who work hard will be rewarded. Those who do not put in their share of work have no place in the PUB.

About 3 years ago, I mentioned a training scheme to upgrade the skill of our daily-rated employees and the conversion of certain skilled jobs into monthly-rated posts. Since then, 157 employees have undergone or are undergoing full-time formal courses. 55 have passed the requisite examinations and they have been promoted to higher grades and of course are receiving higher salaries. As I said, we are using more and more sophisticated equipment which requires skilled personnel for operation and maintenance. Those who join the PUB and are willing to learn and work will find that there is a bright future for them. They may start as daily rated but will end as skilled technicians with higher pay. Professionals and administrators are also given opportunities to upgrade their knowledge and technique through courses and attachments abroad and seminars.

I hope that more and more employees will take advantage of the opportunities available to improve themselves. In doing so, we will be able to fulfil the responsibilities of providing essential utilities of electricity, gas and water efficiently and in the most economical manner.

It is by increasing productivity in the face of high oil prices and rising costs that we can hope to continue to provide the essential utilities of electricity, water and gas efficiently and economically.

=====