

15-4/82/02/21

SPEECH BY MR TEO CHONG TEE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(SOCIAL AFFAIRS), AT THE BUFFET DINNER GATHERING GIVEN  
IN HIS HONOUR BY THE MALAY CONSTITUENTS AT KAMPUNG  
PADANG TERBAKAR COMMUNITY CENTRE, SIAK KUAN ROAD,  
ON SUNDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 1982 AT 5 PM

I am indeed happy to be present at this buffet dinner given in my honour this evening. I want to express my heart-felt thanks to the organisers as well as to all of you for giving me your full support.

When I first came to Changi constituency in 1976, I found out that Changi is one of the largest rural constituencies. Apart from some private residential areas, the rest of the constituency, which includes two populated off-shore islands Pulau Tekong Besar and Pulau Ubin, comprises mainly clusters of wooden structures still heavily populated with people from our multi-racial society living harmoniously together.

Resettlement in some areas was one of my immediate tasks I had to face my constituents. I patiently met the people who were affected by the clearance scheme at my regular meet-the-people sessions and untiring efforts were made to relieve them of their problems and hardship. To-date, many of them had already been resettled in our modern housing estates. I believe that they are happily enjoying a different way of life in a totally different environment. Sacrifice is one of the heavy prices we have to pay not only for the improvement and upgrading of our standard of living but also for the nation's progress and prosperity. The government has all along shown understanding and sympathy in its dealing with resettlement problems faced by people who have realised that resettlement for our nation's progress and prosperity has become a way of our life.

Our far-sighted ....2/-

Our far-sighted leadership in the government has successfully guided us through a multitude of world problems affecting Singapore both politically and economically. Though our country is small with a young and hardworking population of 2.4 million people, we are able to withstand the effects of world inflation and continue to achieve economic success year by year.

All these successes would not have been possible had it not been for the far-sightedness of our capable leaders in the PAP Government as well as the whole-hearted cooperation and support of the people. As Singaporeans, we are proud of our achievement.

Many of you might have read in the newspapers that in the forthcoming years, most rural kampungs would be gradually phased out for redevelopment purposes and Changi constituency is no exception. A large portion of Changi constituency has been earmarked for industrial purposes to be undertaken by the Housing and Development Board and the Jurong Town Corporation. Affected by the industrial projects will be shophouses, villages and Malay kampungs, including Padang Terbakar Village. Pulau Tekong Besar is also affected by another government project.

Changi constituency has been chosen as a suitable site for industrial development because the population centres in Changi, Bedok and Tampines, and together with the Changi Airport, would stimulate the growth of aviation support and servicing industries. However, the industrial development would need some years to be planned and developed. As such, clearance of residents in these kampungs and rehousing for them are not expected to start soon, but we must be prepared to meet the changing circumstances inevitably.

The present shortage of HDB flats would probably contribute a delay to the clearance scheme. However, the government has planned to speed up the housing programme to meet its needs. Where building of mosques is concerned, the government has also built new mosques for our Muslims living at housing estates and new towns.

Over the .....3/-

Over the last five years, many residents have seen me with their problems. I have tried my best to assist them. Many problems were solved; some were alleviated and a few others were not successful. The unsuccessful cases were those concerning the government policy matters. Whatever your problems are, it is my duty to be of assistance to you and your family. I assure you that as your Member of Parliament, I share your problems with you. It is also my hope that I will continue to receive your support, cooperation and understanding. May 'Allah' be with you always.

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