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SPEECH BY MR WONG KAN SENG, MINISTER OF STATE  
(COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT) AND (COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION),  
AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES SCHEME,  
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/CRIME PREVENTION TALK CUM  
DIALOGUE SESSION AT KUO CHUAN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ON SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY 1986 AT 8.00 PM

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I am pleased to be with you this evening to present letters of appointment to the Block Representatives of Kuo Chuan Zone 'A' Residents' Committee.

Since the beginning of the RC Scheme in 1978, the RCs have organised more than 14,000 projects and activities. More than 2.7 million participants have taken part in these activities and projects. The results are indeed impressive. There is, however, also room for improvement. Besides taking part in activities organised by the RCs, residents should also be prepared to play a more active role. The task of building a cohesive and caring community within the neighbourhood is not the sole responsibility of the RCs. It is also the responsibility of every resident in the neighbourhood.

The RCs will provide the leadership role in planning and implementing activities which meet the needs of the residents. The Block Representatives will complement the role of the RC members. I am therefore very happy to note that the Zone 'A' RC has taken the initiative to start the Block Representatives Scheme.

As Block Representatives, you can make valuable contributions to effect changes to the community in which you live. Being a resident yourself, you are in a better position to know the needs and aspirations of fellow residents in your block. You are also well placed to disseminate information on Government policies and actions to the residents and obtain feedback from them. You will have the opportunity to participate in regular dialogue sessions to discuss topical issues together with other community leaders and me.

I would also like to encourage you to work closely with the RC members to improve the general upkeep and security of your block. There should be mutual cooperation between you and the RC members as all of you are volunteers striving to achieve the common objective of making your estate a better place to live in.

With additional manpower, RC members can now implement more long-term projects and form more sub-groups to cater to the varied needs and interest of the residents and sustain their participation. It is also important that RC members maintain harmonious relationship with the Block Representatives. Both should be open and receptive to views and suggestions from each other and also from the residents.

I would like to thank all of you for volunteering your time and effort in serving the community. I look forward to having similar pleasure in presenting letters of appointment to Block Representatives in the other three RC zones in the near future. I am confident that with your dedicated efforts and participation, we will be able to turn Kuo Chuan into a more friendly, cohesive and caring community.

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