



SPEECH

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Comments by Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence at Palembang

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It is now nearly two weeks since the crash of the SilkAir Flight MI 185 which tragically claimed the lives of 104 people.

It has been a period of anguish and sadness not only for the relatives and friends of the crash victims but also for all Singaporeans.

In this moment of pain, Singaporeans have grown closer to one another and have drawn together, regardless of race, language or religion, to comfort and lend moral support to the bereaved, as well as contribute in their own ways, to the search and recovery efforts.

Our friends in Indonesia have spared no efforts, providing much resources and manpower, and we have cooperated closely with them in the search and recovery operation. We are grateful, and we will always remember the Indonesians' hand of friendship in our time of need.

Life is uncertain and we cannot take things for granted.

While we may be a young country, often grappling with the difficult concepts of nationhood and belonging, it is in times of crisis like this that we learn what it means to be part of one big extended family, to mourn and to grieve together, and to reach out and support one another.

When there is a need, we must come together as one nation and one country to overcome the difficulties which face us.

News Release:

- Dr Tony Tan in Palembang on New Year's Day (Document No: MINDEF_19980101001.pdf)

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