

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC.MA.13/64 (HEALTH)

SPEECH BY THE ASSEMBLYMAN FOR PONGGOL,
MR. NG KAH TING AT THE OPENING OF THE
TRAFALGAR HOME COMMUNITY HALL ON SATUR-
DAY, MARCH 7TH. AT 4.30 P.M.

It gives me great pleasure to be here with this distinguished gathering to-day to open the Trafalgar Home Community Hall.

As you all perhaps know, patients admitted to this Home stay on the average two to five years before they are discharged. The majority of them, around three hundred and fifty in number, are physically fit otherwise and find their stay in hospital irksome and boring. They stay in the ambulatory section with little to do day in and day out. The Recreation Club situated at an old quarters is small and the facilities for recreation are limited. The need for a bigger hall with better facilities to relieve the enforced boredom was felt all these years but the lack of funds made it difficult for the authorities to attend to it.

It was therefore very fortunate for Trafalgar Home when a donation of \$10,000 in the memory of the late Mr. Gao Khok Law was received in 1958 and it was agreed that this sum would go to meeting some of the expenses of this building. The Singapore Leprosy Relief Association, a voluntary organisation founded in 1952, contributed the balance of the cost of the building which was \$13,600/-. The plans and the building were undertaken by the P.W.D.

The building represented the first phase of the project for the Community Hall for the Home. Only the barest essentials have been included in it. There is still some further work to provide for electrical fittings and furnishings. These will be installed when further donations from well-wishers are received.

The Community Hall will be able to foster friendship and nurture inter-racial harmony amongst the patients. It will give them a place to congregate for recreation and relaxation. It will help to kill boredom and relieve the feeling of isolation and segregation. The public in helping to light and furnish it will show the patients that they are not forgotten. It is hoped that this Community Hall will help in the mental rehabilitation of the patients as well as the re-orientation of the public's mind to leprosy as a disease.

Being assemblyman for this area it will be my privilege to better and to strive to improve their lot. This is my first visit to Trafalgar Home since my election. I shall come more often and try to help where and when I can.

I now declare the Trafalgar Home Community Hall open.

MARCH 7, 1964.

(Time issued: 1130 hours)