

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE), MR. YEE TOON BOON, AT NATIONAL LANGUAGE MONTH CELEBRATION AT OUTRIMS-TOWN POLICE STATION, ON NOVEMBER 17, 1965 AT 7.45 P.M.

As Minister of State for Defence, I am very happy to see the contribution made by Polis Negara Singapura in a National Language Month Celebration. I notice that many police stations have been decorated with colourful light and National Language Month slogans. The Police have contributed various items to make the Language Month Campaign a success.

This is the second time in 1965 that Government has launched the National Language Month campaigns. The object is to promote interest of the Singapore people in studying the National Language and join in the effort to spread its ^{use} / in our society. The National Language is our common language, a language that should be understood by every Singapore citizen. Through a common language, we hope to strengthen the unity of our people, and thus can render assistance in bringing about a united, happy, just and prosperous Singapore society.

I would like to call on all officers and men of Polis Negara Singapura who have not yet undertaken the study of the National Language to do so during this National Language Month. To those who already understand the language, I would like to express my hope that they would make a contribution in the effort to spread its use among the people.

To our Malay brothers who are using the National Language in their daily lives, I would like to suggest that they would spare part of their time to study the languages of our brothers in the other communities. It is a good thing for a Singapore citizen to know more than one language. This is because our society is composed of people of various races, with various mother-tongues. It is not only a personal advantage for a Singapore citizen to be able to speak in more than one language, but it is also an advantage to our nation and our society.

Credit should be given to the Polis Negara Singapura for their efforts in celebrating this National Language Month. I feel proud to see such spirit in members of our police force, and I hope that Polis Negara would continue to make its contribution towards National Language Month campaigns in future. I would like to congratulate you all, and may your efforts leave behind beneficial effects on our nation. Finally, with great pleasure I declare this National Language Month contest open.

NOVEMBER 17, 1965.

Time issued: 1630 hours
