

SPEECH BY MR. LIM GUAN HOO, POLITICAL SECRETARY TO  
THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR & DEFENCE, ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY  
CAMPAIGN ON MONDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1970 AT 4.00 P.M.  
AT THE VICTORIA THEATRE, EMPRESS PLACE, SINGAPORE

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Today, the National Safety First Council of Singapore is launching a Pedestrian Safety Campaign. I wish the Campaign every success because among the road users of the Republic, pedestrians are the biggest in size and are among the most likely victims of accidents. Out of a total of 302 people killed last year in road accidents, 50% are pedestrians.

The tragedy on the roads will be considerably out down if more of our pedestrians are educated to be more conscious of the importance of Road Safety. In any city, the presence of the jay-walker is an indication of insufficient civic sense. Modern technology has helped to create this problem, but it is a man-made problem that can be solved by man, you and I intentionally making an effort never to jay walk. The tragedy becomes greater when we remember that the jay-walkers endangers other people's lives even more than his own by his carelessness or irresponsible crossing or using of the road. I therefore consider that education in road courtesies of both pedestrian and drivers as one of the major tasks confronting us and I want to congratulate the National Safety First Council of Singapore on its strong and imaginative campaign. Previous campaigns on road safety were directed at motorists with impressive results. In 1968 there were 3,188 cases of vehicles hindering traffic, in 1969 the figure was reduced to 552 as a result of the Keep Left Campaigns held during that period. The importance of education campaign therefore cannot be overemphasised. Singapore will also be the host country for the International Road Safety Seminar this year to be held on 20th to 25th June. I am therefore confident that every civic-minded citizen of Singapore is behind the Council in its present Campaign.

The Council has organised a variety of activities to publicise the Campaign including participation by schools, firms, the Vigilante Corps, the cinemas, TV and Radio, Press and Government Departments. May all its activities receive all the support they deserve. All sections of the population are involved in this Campaign. I hope that "Care for Others" will be a slogan that is practised by all. For example, in this very young nation of ours, children are in special danger especially the younger ones. They must be educated both in schools and outside school in Road Safety. Then there are the old people whom we so often see on the streets of Singapore. Old people

react very slowly. Perhaps it is possible for our young pedestrians to take it on themselves to help the old people in our streets. It is in little concerns like this for the public that our people learn to put the public interest first and thus help our people to be more civic conscious.

In a national Campaign like this, it is most important to realise that other users of the roads besides the pedestrians are involved. This is called a Pedestrian Safety Campaign but it is actually a Road Safety Campaign that concerns every other user of the road as well and not only the pedestrians. There is surely not much point in Pedestrians obeying the rules of the roads when cars and lorry drivers do not. Pedestrians own a duty to themselves and others. In exactly the same way, motorists too own a due to others.

Therefore in declaring open the Pedestrian Safety Campaign of the National Safety First Council of Singapore 1970, I wish the organisers every success in striking home the message of greater safety. Results will be most encouraging if all of us live in Singapore play our role as our brother's keeper as well as ourselves.

