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TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MR. LIM KIM SAN, AT THE OPENING OF THE SPORTS COMPLEX AND THE FIRST AGE GROUP ASIAN SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP AT QUEENSTOWN SWIMMING POOL, SWALLEY ROAD, ON SAT., AUG. 15, AT 9 A.M.

I would first like to welcome our distinguished guests and the young participants to the First Age Group Asian Swimming Championships. I hope they will have an enjoyable and successful stay in Singapore. I am sure the members of the Singapore Amateur Swimming Association will make their stay as pleasant as possible and I have no doubt at all that we can all look forward to a most successful First Age Group Swimming Meet.

This morning we are also here for the opening of the Queenstown Sports Complex - - the first of its kind in a housing estate. The opening of this sports complex is another milestone in the progress of public housing in Singapore. It marks the progress from merely providing a roof over one's head to that of providing other amenities which go for healthier and more gracious living.

In the early 60's, it was a question of providing cheap and sufficient living accommodation for our people. In the mid 60's, it was a question of clearing the slums in the central city area to make way for new buildings. The first problem can be said to have been solved as a third of our population is housed in flats built by the Housing and Development Board. As regards the second problem, urban renewal is well under way and a large proportion of the city area has been cleared. Urban renewal will change the face of central Singapore and change it for the better. If the speed of clearance and urban renewal is maintained, there will be no slum left in the central city area soon.

It is possible for town planners, architects, engineers and other specialists to plan and provide for congenial surroundings for a healthier and fuller life but provision of better roads, more open spaces, parks, fountains and sports complexes of this kind, etc., amidst modern high rising flats do not by themselves bring about a healthier and fuller life. Much depends upon how the residents make use of and look after these facilities and how considerate they are of each other's feelings.

Even with family planning, we expect a population of three million by 1980 and we have no alternative but to live in close proximity to each other. So the sooner we adjust ourselves to this new way of living, the less trouble we would have later on. With high density living, that is, with a large number of people living close to each other, life can be pleasant only if there is consideration

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for each other. We now have regulations controlling the use of loudspeakers, regulations against littering and regulations to prevent excessive smoke from cars and industries. All of us, at one time or another, must have found how nerve-wracking it could be to have a loudspeaker blasting away for hours on end or to have rubbish thrown from upper floors down to your balcony. The action of a few inconsiderate residents can jeopardize the happiness and well-being of hundreds of those staying nearby. New regulations such as the ones I have mentioned have to be introduced to restrain the irresponsible and to ensure that in this crowded island, everyone will have the opportunity to lead a more pleasant and fuller life.

The residents of Queenstown will no doubt make full use of the facilities provided in this sports complex and no doubt the standards of performance in the various sports will improve. What I am looking forward to most is the greater consideration in the use of public facilities such as this sports complex. This complex does not belong to anybody in particular. It belongs to all of us and let us all look after it as we would our own property.

We are honoured this morning by the presence of distinguished guests and participants from overseas, and I can think of no better way of paying tribute to their presence here and of commemorating the First Age Group Asian Swimming Championship than by making sure that while using the facilities of this complex to the full, we also ensure that they will be left as neat and clean as we find them today. Let the presence of our distinguished guests here strengthen our resolution to keep our city clean and green.

It is with the greatest pleasure that I now declare open the Queenstown Sports Complex and the First Age Group Asian Swimming Championship.

AUGUST 15, 1970.

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