

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC/OCT/8/71 (H.A.)

Speech by Mr. L. P. Rodrigo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs at the 1st Cinema Show at Lorong Chuan Community Centre in conjunction with the Anti-Pollution Campaign, on Thursday, 7th October, 1971, at 7.00 p.m.

To us water is a precious commodity. By and large, our peoples have realised this as was shown recently in our successful effort to use water with care and consideration. From a daily consumption of 130-million gallons we collectively reduced usage to about 100-million gallons. That experience has shown that we are able to achieve important results with a little discipline. It shows that we can get things done just by behaving in a responsible and unselfish way.

For the whole of this month we have an anti-pollution and personal hygiene campaign. The campaign is to get us accustomed to refrain from soiling our water and our air. We would want our water in the rivers to be clean and the air which we breathe to be clean. It takes little discipline to achieve this. We need only refrain from dumping rubbish, oil and other waste into the rivers and streams, canals and drains. Our city is already clean and green. When our rivers and air also become clean our city and people will indeed be much admired and respected and we will live in even more healthy surroundings.

The next aspect of this campaign is personal hygiene. Individually and as families we have habits of cleanliness. This is natural as we all want to be clean in habits. Nobody wants to be dirty except perhaps the modern youth who follow the style of some foreign youth, who try their best to be dirty. However, our habits in personal hygiene relate only to our own interests or those of our family. They do not yet relate to the interests of society or the nation. We must learn to be clean and hygienic in the interests of society and the nation too.

Clean personal habits will keep us and our children free from disease and pain. We must develop clean habits in our children by example and training. Habits like washing hands before meals and keeping our bodies and clothes in a state of cleanliness should be developed in our children by us. We cannot leave everything to the school and the teachers. They have a lot to do to educate our children.

So let all of us together as a society keep our country free of pollution and keep ourselves bright, clean and healthy - not only for the duration of this campaign but all the time until it becomes a way of life for all of us.

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6th October, 1971.