

4/2/77

Speech by Mr. Lim Guan Hoo, Political Secretary to the Minister for Communications, at the "Flag Off" of the Car Rally at 1.00 p.m. on 15th July 1972, at the Union House of University of Singapore Students' Union, Cluny Road.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

The spirit that has occasioned us to gather here this afternoon is, if I may say so, a noble one. This assembly is a demonstration of one of the basic human desires in modern cities in modern times - the desire to remain alive on the roads, the desire to work together to keep others to remain alive and the desire to share our experiences in such effort.

Road safety is not an isolated problem; it starts with the planning of a road and is interwoven with every decision taken about the use of a road by any type of vehicle or pedestrians. The terrible waste of life on the roads is usually the result of a lack of courtesy and consideration by many drivers and road users of all classes. This lack of civic consciousness has also caused a vast amount of suffering in mind and body and economic loss to the nation. It is indeed sad to see that with some of us, the growth of affluence as evidenced by the large number of cars on the roads, is not accompanied by a growth of mental attitudes towards road safety. Accidents do not just happen, they are caused.

Various campaigns have been launched in the past and will continue to be launched to educate the pedestrians to reduce the road toll and the senseless waste of life and limb. Public civic-mindedness is a decisive factor in making our roads a safer place for all. In this connection, the need to educate the man behind the wheel is of equal importance. The drivers too can play their parts to help reduce road accidents by being more cautious and by obeying the Traffic rules, the road signs and the Highway Code. One of the main causes of accidents is speed and the slogan "The speed that thrills is the speed that kills" has proved to be very true for these worse inclinations in this direction are more than what they can handle. This is the reason why speed limits are established in built up areas, and tough laws against the erring motorist are necessary.

However, in the course of its enormous continuous development, the motor car has assumed such proportions that it has become necessary to cater for those drivers whose ability to harness and control these vehicles is unquestionable. As a result car races and competitions of every conceivable type are being held in every country. It is not surprising to note that in such competitions driving ability and safety consciousness go hand in hand. Organised motor races and competitions do undoubtedly help in the promotion of safe driving.

It is by no accident then that the emphasis of this Rally organised by the University of Singapore Students' Union is on road safety, courtesy and civic consciousness. The Varsity Car Rally Committee is indeed to be congratulated for its farsightedness and efforts in initiating this Rally.

In conclusion, let me express the hope that you keep up your efforts in further campaigns towards this end of educating the public in the improved use of roads.

I now have great pleasure in proclaiming the start of this Car Rally.