

Speech by Mr. Lim Guan Hoo, Political Secretary to the Minister for Communications at the Second Anniversary Celebration of the Public Service Vehicles' Training School and to present certificates to candidates who have successfully completed the 19th Bus Drivers' Course, at the St. John's Ambulance Headquarters, Beach Road on 5.8.72, Saturday at 4.00 p.m.

It gives me great pleasure to be here to join you in celebrating ~~the Second~~ Anniversary of the Public Service Vehicles Training School and to present certificates to those who have successfully completed the 19th Bus Drivers' Course.

2. This School was established in April 1970 to meet the shortage of qualified bus drivers for the expanding transport services of various bus companies. The first intake of trainees consisted of bus drivers who underwent six weeks of training on manual operation and maintenance of vehicles and the Highway Code. Today the School provides training facilities for other persons who operate our public transport services like taxi drivers and bus conductors. Courses of instruction on fostering good public relations, first aid and rules regulating the movement of traffic on roads are being conducted.

3. To-date a total of 5,469 trainees have successfully completed their courses of training and had been awarded certificates. The School shall be provided with premises of its own in the near future. However, the reputation and success of this School would not be judged by the grandeur and style of its buildings and premises. Those who have completed their course of training can and should build up the School's reputation by practising what they have been taught on providing efficient and courteous services to members of the public who make use of public transport.

4. As the number of commuters making use of Singapore's public transport system increases, higher standards of social discipline, comfort in travel and safety requirements would be expected from those who manage the buses and taxis since the training in this School is being provided by the Registry of Vehicles and our people are used to expecting continuous improvement in the quality of public amenities and facilities provided by the Government, the degree of

excellence and intensity of training must be maintained and improved upon. As Singapore becomes more urbanized and the pace of economic development increases bus companies and taxi operators can help to reduce the tensions, stress and strains of modern-day living by providing efficient and courteous transport services with clean and safe vehicles to travel in.

5. It is heartening to note that it is the combined efforts of instructors from St. John's Ambulance Brigade who taught on first-aid, officers from the Tourist Promotion Board who gave courses on "Places of Interest in Singapore", bus companies and officers from the R.O.V. who assisted in various ways that have made the Public Service Vehicles Training School a success .

6. I wish the School, its candidates and all those concerned with it, continued success.

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