

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC.AUG/46/72(CULTURE)

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE JURONG CONSTITUENCY
NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS DINNER ON 19
AUGUST 72 AT 8.00 P.M. AT TAMAN JURONG
HAWKERS' CENTRE

Once again, we celebrate Singapore's National Day. As we march into the 7th year of Singapore's independence, we can look^{back} with pride the progress made during this period.

In terms of economic development and especially in the field of industrialisation, the Jurong Constituency is contributing a major share towards its advancement. Since 1960, the base of Singapore's economy has been broadened by a successful industrialization programme, which centres primarily on the Jurong Industrial complex. The transformation of Jurong, which was largely swampland, low hills and secondary jungle, into a thriving self-contained industrial estate is indeed a remarkable achievement that marvels even visitors from the industrially advanced countries.

The 300 odd factories in the Jurong Town provide employment for thousands of workers and with its expansion in the near future, this industrial site will be able to cater for a much greater number of job-seekers. Much efforts are also being made to ensure that the workers and residents of this area can enjoy the social amenities found in the city area. As more and better amenities such as better housing and more sophisticated recreational facilities are provided, more workers will prefer to reside here. There are at

present a drive-in cinema, Olympic size swimming pool, shopping facilities, the Jurong Bird Park, playgrounds, schools, community centres, a creche, as well as a private hospital and a government out-patient dispensary. These social amenities are meant for the advancement and well-being of the people living and working in this industrial estate.

However, in our effort to progress through technology, the pollution problem becomes dominant as in all technologically advanced countries. Undoubtedly, Jurong being the largest industrial estate would be the most affected area. Though the government is taking positive steps to curb this menace through the Clean Air Act 1971 and the Clean Air (standards) Regulation 1972, the co-operation of the people is essential if our anti-pollution campaign is to be a success. All of you present here to-night, whether you are serving in the Citizens' Consultative Committee, Management Committees of the Community Centres or other associations and organisations, have an important role to play in helping to promote a better standard of living and a healthier environment.

The people in the Jurong area, affected by this rapid pace of industrialisation and modernisation must be forward-looking and should abandon those outmoded ways, not conducive to the progress of the Society. In this respect, the community leaders serving in the Citizens' Consultative Committee, and the Management Committees of the 8 community

centres in the Jurong Constituency are in the best position to help the residents adjust to the changing conditions. As 'grass-root' leaders coming from all walks of life, you will be able to 'tap' the needs and aspirations of the people and help rectify anomalies. The recent Cultural Show staged in Taman Jurong through the combined efforts of the People's Association, Citizens' Consultative Committee and the Management Committees is the type of activity that should be continued in our modern industrialised society.

Hence, on this occasion when we celebrate our National Day, let us strive to achieve economic prosperity without losing sight of our goal for cultural advancement.
