

4/1/3/73

SPEECH BY DR ANG KOK PENG, MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS & M.P. FOR CRAWFORD AT THE 10TH ANNUAL KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE PAP CRAWFORD BRANCH HELD ON SATURDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 1973 AT 7.30 P.M. AT THE BASKETBALL COURT OF THE CRAWFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

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I am very pleased to be here to-night to officiate at the PAP Crawford Branch Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony. For the young graduands, it marks the completion of their first step in the long journey of education. From here they will proceed to the primary schools where the next stage of their exciting venture into the world of knowledge begins.

2 For the next few years, these children are most impressionable and do need to look up to their teachers and parents for proper guidance and tender care so that they may grow up healthy in body and mind and with a sense of social responsibility to society. Their proper growth cannot be left to chance if these young children are to become lovable boys and girls you want them to be. It is therefore important for you as parents to see to it that your children are engaged in activities that are conducive to the development of good character and to discipline them when they do wrong.

3 Lack of parental care and love results in a sense of deprivation in the child. Such a child is easily led astray when in bad company, with disastrous consequences for the parents and the society. The rehabilitation of a delinquent child is a difficult and slow process.

4 To be able to devote enough time and energy to each child, the family unit must be small. In this respect, those with small families will have an advantage

over those with large families, and the children in these small families will have a better chance in life.

5 As a result of the conflict in the Middle East, there is a shortage of petroleum supply in the world. Being fully dependent on imports for our petroleum needs, we are directly and unavoidably affected by it. To us it now means that we have to economise as stringently as possible on the use of petrol and petroleum products and electricity which is derived from fuel oil. In certain countries rationing has been introduced to cope with the situation. I urge you to give your full support to the present campaign to economise on the use of our energy resources.

In conclusion, I wish the young graduands a very successful future.

Date: 17 November 1973