

Singapore Government

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SPEECH BY MR BERNARD CHEN, ACTING MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS,
AT THE POLICE REVIEW 1980 AT THE POLICE ACADEMY
ON TUESDAY, 3 JUNE 1980 AT 5.30 PM

This evening's parade commemorates Police Day 1980. Police Day has usually been celebrated with de-centralised mini parades at the various Divisions and Units at which the respective Police personnel re-affirmed their pledge to give our country their unstinting loyal service. Today's parade marks a departure from the usual form by including representatives from all areas of the Force in the same parade, thus reflecting the need of the Force to be unified in organisation and cohesive in operation.

The wide cross-section of the experienced men and women officers as well as young budding ones from the various Commands and Units on parade gives a good indication of the manpower potential of the Force which we must fully exploit if we are to expect the Force to be an effective instrument to maintain law and order. Your role as members of the Police Force is clearly defined by the Pledge you have just renewed. The making or renewing of a plodge is not difficult. What matters is how you put into practice the spirit enshrined in this pledge. In the course of your duties you will encounter difficulties and problems of all kinds. They can only be overcome if you are totally committed to the service you belong. With complete loyalty and dedication, you will be able to devote your full energy and make all possible attempts to overcome problems as they surface. Half-hearted solutions made by non-committed officers and men can only lead to disaster.

In performing your duties to uphold the law and to protect life and property, you should never lose sight of your objective of providing service to the people. Although you have the full backing of the law, you should exercise your rights judiciously and humanely, but firmly. Never allow yourselves to be lulled into complacency which breeds indifferent

action and worse, abuses. The people look upon you as the upholders of law and order. You must therefore respond fully to their expectations by rendering them efficient and effective service.

Ultimately the public will judge you by how you conduct themselves. Your exemplary behaviour will go a long way to convince them that they have in the Police Force a breed of dedicated and diligent officers and men totally committed to the service of the country. They can also conclude from the way you handle your duties that their trust in the Police Force is well-placed. You would then have earned the final reward of your service in the Police Force, in gaining the respect and confidence of the people you serve.

May I congratulate all of you on parade for your fine bearing and smart turnout.
