

Singapore Government

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SPEECH BY MR CH'NG JIT KOON, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO
THE PRIME MINISTER, AT HUME INDUSTRIES ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 17TH NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCE CEREMONY ON 11 AUGUST '82 AT 8.00 AM

It is indeed a great pleasure for me this morning to be with all of you to witness the 17th National Day Observance Ceremony. This is a very joyous occasion for all of us and I am very happy to note the respect and dedication which all of you have shown to our country.

For the past seventeen years, Singapore has achieved great progress. This has been made possible largely due to the capable leadership of our Government and a very hard-working population. Over the past years, we have been able to overcome crucial problems like housing and unemployment and have greatly improved the standard of living of our people. The clean and green housing estates, schools and hospitals are some of the achievements which we all can be proud of.

In order that we can continue to progress we need to attract more foreign investments. Foreign investors will only come to set up factories in Singapore if we have a skilled workforce. Therefore, the Government has established sufficient institutions providing academic and vocational training to our workers, so as to upgrade their skills to meet the requirements of advanced technology. Even the management of large organisations has undergone changes to keep up with progress.

However, the more crucial factor is that we must continue to have a disciplined workforce which is prepared to strive even harder to keep pace with rapid changes. The use of robots in large organisations to replace much needed manpower will increase productivity and provide efficient service. Our workers must be prepared to accept these changes. At times they should also be prepared to work longer hours so that maximum returns can be

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obtained from the huge capital invested on machinery and training.

It is also of vital importance to maintain cordial relationship between workers and management. Management must place emphasis on the welfare of workers who should not be treated as mere by-products. Workers on the other hand should consider their fellow-workers and management as members of the same family. In this way, we can then have a better working environment which will enhance productivity.

Finally, let us all look forward to another prosperous year and continue to work hard.

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