

PRESS RELEASE

Information Division, Ministry of Culture, City Hall, Singapore 0617 · TEL: 3378191 ext. 352, 353, 354 / 3362207 / 3362271

02-3/82/11/05.

SPEECH BY MR CH'NG JIT KOON, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO
THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE SAF ROAD SHOW
AT KIM TIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON FRIDAY, 5 NOVEMBER '82 AT 8.00 PM

November has been designated as Productivity Month and it was launched by the Prime Minister on 1st November. By now, you would have seen banners carrying productivity slogans everywhere.

Many of you will no doubt ask what is productivity and in what way is it relevant to you? Put it simply, productivity means doing a thing faster, cheaper and with less defects. In other words, productivity means we must be efficient. For those of you working in the factories, you can help to increase productivity by paying more attention to your work so that less mistakes or defects are made. Put it another way, production cost will be kept low if there is less wastage through defective workmanship. The products produced by your factory can then be competitive and in turn your jobs are assured.

Productivity does not only apply to the factory or office workers alone. All of us can help to increase productivity in our own little way. For example, a taxi driver should try to keep his taxi clean and regularly maintained. This will mean less breakdown and repairs. Also by driving courteously and carefully, he can save money on petrol. In the case of a housewife, she can plan her housework carefully so that she can have more time for the children. For a student, if he is used to going to school late, it is likely that he will carry on this habit when he starts his working life. This will result in poor performance at work.

While everyone of us can be more productive in our own ways, we must also remember that when we work together we can achieve better results. If a bus driver cannot get along with his conductor, it is very likely that we will have a jerky ride on the bus. Another good example is the SAF Road Show tonight. Without cooperation of the singers, musicians, dancers and stage managers, we will not be able to have an enjoyable road show.

It is, therefore, important for all of us to think of productivity in whatever things we do. By being more efficient and productive, all of us will be contributing towards the economy of Singapore. Only in this way can we ensure that our children will continue to enjoy our high standard of living with clean housing, good schools, medical facilities and other social amenities.

#####