

PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR CH'NG JIT KOON, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER, AT THE FOOD FAIR
AND JUMBLE SALE ORGANISED BY THE LADIES CIRCLE OF
TANJONG PAGAR SPOTTISWOODE PARK RESIDENTS'
COMMITTEES ON SUNDAY, 5 JUNE 1983 AT 9 AM

I am very happy to be here this morning to attend your food fair and jumble sale organised by the Ladies Circle of the Tanjong Pagar Spottiswoode Park Residents' Committee.

The Ladies Circle has been set up by the RC to encourage female residents, both young and old, to come forward to work together and play an active part in meeting the residents' needs and the RC objective. Under the able leadership of Mrs Anne Lui and other lady RC members, the Ladies Circle has been able to attract many female residents to participate as well as to help in several meaningful projects and activities organised by the RC in Spottiswoode Park estate.

A case in point is this food fair and jumble sale which they have initiated to promote neighbourliness and to raise funds to help the less fortunate residents in Tanjong Pagar constituency. By contributing generously and participating actively in this project, the residents in this estate, particularly the members of the RC and Ladies Circle, have gone beyond a small circle of their friends and neighbours to show their care and concern to

other fellow residents in their community. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them for making this meaningful project a success.

Within a short period of five years since we launched the RC scheme in 1978, altogether 6,185 residents have volunteered their service as RC members. Of these members, 4,001 are in active service in the 244 RCs in 69 constituencies. On the average, there are now about 16 members in each RC. When the RC scheme was first launched in 1978, there were only about 11 members in each RC. The RCs have, therefore, grown rapidly in number as well as in membership over the last five years. This would not have been possible without the good response from the residents.

Of the 2,184 residents who once served as RC members, 74.8 per cent left their RCs because of personal, family or work commitments. 17.5 per cent of them had shifted out and therefore had to give up their appointments in the RCs. 5.6 per cent left the RCs for reasons of old age, poor health or death. Only a small percentage (2.1 per cent) indicated that they had lost interest in the RC work. Obviously, the majority of them left the RCs for genuine reasons and it would be unfair to say that they left the RCs because they had lost interest or were not happy with the RCs. Many of them, in fact, remain friends and supporters of the RCs.

Like any other civic organisations, each RC has to maintain an optimum membership size for effective operation. There is therefore a limit to the membership growth of each RC even if there are many residents who wish to volunteer their service. Fortunately, we have a flexible system

whereby we can allow as many residents as possible a chance to serve in the RCs and then to hand on the 'torch' to others as and when necessary without casting aspersion on them. We can also create additional opportunities like the Ladies Circle of Spottiswoode Park RC to enable more residents to come forward to play an active part in the RC activities without having to become an RC member. Through such means the RCs will be able to secure greater residents' participation and continue to play an active role in community development.

Finally, I have great pleasure of declaring this Food Fair and Jumble Sale open and I wish everybody an enjoyable time.
