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Acc. No.	NARC
83	19

Archives & Oral History Department  
Singapore

10 JUN 1983

Release No: 9/June  
02-3/83/06/05

**SPEECH BY MR CH'NG JIT KOON, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY  
SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER, AT THE BIENNIAL  
GENERAL MEETING OF THE TANJONG PAGAR CONSTITUENCY  
YOUTH GROUP AT TANJONG PAGAR COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ON SUNDAY, 5 JUNE 1983 AT 3 PM**

It gives me great pleasure to be here today to witness the Biennial General Meeting of the Tanjong Pagar Youth Group. Biennial General Meeting is an important event for the youth group because you will be electing your own leaders. I am confident you will continue to choose wisely. This is important because the progress of your organisation depends on the quality of the leaders.

As in all elections, some will be re-elected and some new leaders will emerge. For those who have served in the Youth Executive Committee and who will be stepping down for one reason or another, I would like to convey our deep appreciation to them for their valuable service to the youth group and the community.

Since its establishment in 1972, the Tanjong Pagar Youth Group has organised numerous wholesome activities for the youth as well as other sectors of the community. These achievements could not be possible if not for the hard work and dedication of the Youth Executive Committee members and the unstinted support of the ordinary members.

The People's Association Youth Movement is the biggest youth organisation in Singapore. Recently, it succeeded in recruiting about 10,000 new members. The Movement has now 52,000 members. For a mass youth organisation, membership strength is important. It provides a solid base and a pool of manpower. The Movement should continue to encourage youth of all ages, races, income groups and educational levels to become members. With more members, the Movement will be able to throw up more and better leaders. It will also have more resources to organise wholesome activities for the members and community.

With 52,000 members, the test for the Movement is whether the leaders can mobilise the members to participate and lead in its activities. A good leader, in my opinion, is one who can persuade and convince others to do what he wants them to do. He must be able to cultivate followers and supporters. Therefore, the success of a youth group depends, among other things, on the leadership quality of the Youth Executive Committee.

The People's Association will continue to organise activities and provide facilities to meet the needs and interests of the youth in areas such as sports, culture, education and recreation. While pursuing your interests in the various fields, it is important that you should not forget the interests of the community you live in. As the youths of today will be the leaders of tomorrow, it is necessary that you sharpen your awareness of what goes on around you and be concerned with what is happening in our Republic. Only then will you be able to identify those who go round uttering empty promises.

The Tanjong Pagar YEC had in the past two years done a commendable job in meeting the needs of the youths and community. It is my hope that the incoming YEC will build on these achievements and provide more and better services to the community.

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