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SPEECH BY MR CHOR YEOK ENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(ENVIRONMENT) AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BUKIT TIMAH AT
THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES
RESERVISTS' ASSOCIATION TRADE FAIR AT JURONG ON
SATURDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER '77 AT 7.45 P.M.

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In countries where national service is an obligation for the citizens, there is always the formation of an organization for the national service personnel to look after their welfare. It is in this respect that the Singapore Armed Forces sets up its Reservists' Association aiming at taking care of its members interests and recreational needs.

Today, the Government of Singapore has already erected a club house exclusively for the SAF reservists association in Teo Payoh. Besides that, our reservists also enjoy certain privileges and priorities such as the allocation of HDB flats and the incremental credits for those who join the government service. These benefits clearly indicate the government's recognition of the reservists' contributive role in our national defence.

The reservists association is a subsidised organisation set up under the Ministry of Defence with an annual grant of a fixed amount to supplement the running cost. This is because the various activities provided for the reservists and their families are heavily subsidised. Additional facilities are needed to meet the demand of its increased membership. To accommodate this diverse demand of a growing population in the reservists association, more funds are required to cope with the heavy expenditure incurred.

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In recent years, the association has organised a number of trade fairs partly because the association has gained experiences in this line and partly also due to the fact that such fair is a healthy amusing activity. It is the intention of the association to expand these activities to the densely-populated housing estates where members of the public will not only be able to purchase their needed goods at cheaper rate but at the same time, can support an organisation which is beneficial to them.

In order to reward the enthusiasm of the public, I deeply hope that the disciplined and quality-trained reservists, besides joining their association, could also take part in the valuable activity of our society so that the monetary expenses spent in training them are not wasted.

The advancement of our prosperous society has also given rise to various social problems such as vandalism, drug abuse, delinquency and crimes. If these anti-social activities are not corrected in time, they will continue to spread. The duty of a responsible-minded citizen, particularly those military-trained and disciplined reservists should provide their contribution by giving their support to curb these anti-social activities. It is their duty to organise and promote meaningful community activities to help the young and able-bodies in the proper tracks to serve our Nation.

On the other hand, if the reservists association could organise activities which are beneficial to the community, it would not only benefit its members but at the same time gain the respect of the public.

Gentlemen, if we can combine our strength to work for a common objective, we can be assured of success.