

Singapore Government **PRESS RELEASE**

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

07-3/80/10/12

National Archives and
Records Centre, Singapore

18 OCT 1980
Acc No. NARC

SPEECH BY MR CHOR YEOK ENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY (ENVIRONMENT) AND MP FOR BUKIT TIMAH, AT
THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE RESIDENTS' COMMITTEE
IN BUKIT TIMAH CONSTITUENCY AT THE COMMUNITY HALL OF
CLEMENTI TOWN CENTRE ON SUNDAY, OCT. 12, 1980, AT 2 P.M.

84 0112 13

In any newtown and housing estate, the common problem is that the residents, let it be the shopkeepers or the flat dwellers, are resettled from various parts of the island under different circumstances and backgrounds. Some of them are affected by development clearance while the majority of the others are successful flat applicants under the home ownership scheme, from various areas of our State.

The congregation of these people who are new to each other into this neighbourhood, will initially give a strange feeling to everybody because of their involvement in work and lack of the time to familiarise themselves with one another. Though they are neighbours, they appear strangers to each other even if they happen to meet daily.

To overcome this shortcoming and in order to enable the residents in the neighbourhood to know each other well, the formation of an organisation to build up a friendly neighbourhood is necessary. The Residents' Committee is the solution to solve the complex problems and difficulties which are expected in the densely-populated housing estate. It is only through the concerted effort of the participating residents that these problems could be effectively resolved.

Residents' Committees are progressively being set up in most housing estates. It is through this organisation that the residents would be able to improve and upgrade their living environment and services. Harmonious atmosphere will ultimately be cultivated among the self-loving residents in the estate.

Since it is the expectation of the Residents' Committee to promote the various healthy activities for the residents, the success will depend on the residents who are prepared to sacrifice their time and work with voluntary spirit.

You, boing2/-

You, being the residents living in this estate, should know your needs well and the areas of activities which require priority attention. Difficulties and problems are expected in the initial formation of your Residents' Committee. I am convinced that these can be resolved if only we can pull our efforts and resources to work together. The area secretary and his assistants are there to provide their advice. Should the need arise, my services are also readily available.

With the cooperation of the residents, it is my belief that your committee should be able to do well in solving the problems confronting the residents and become one of the outstanding Residents' Committees.

Today is our first stage in the setting up of a Residents' Committee in Bukit Timah constituency. There will be more to be set up in the near future. This is because our constituency occupies a large land area which will subsequently be divided into four electoral divisions. Large area will not only mean more activities for the Residents' Committee to cover, but it also provides more opportunities for the residents in exchanging their views and thoughts. There will be a time that all the residents will know each other well in consulting and sharing their problems of common interest.

It is my pleasure at this inauguration ceremony to wish all of you every success in achieving your targets in the Residents' Committee.
