

SPEECH BY THE HON. MR. FRANCIS THOMAS, MINISTER
FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS, AT THE PRIZE-GIVING
OF "OUR SINGAPORE" EXHIBITION AT THE GREAT WORLD
TRADE AND INDUSTRIES FAIR ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 7, 1958.

I would like you to note not only the exhibits which you have seen in this exhibition but also its title - Our Singapore, not my Singapore, not your Singapore, but ours. It is the home which all Singapore citizens share and which can only be a happy home for us if we treat each other in a proper way.

When a family sit down together to have a meal you do not I hope find that the one or two strongest members take all the best food for themselves. If they do it will be a very unhappy family for those who get only the scraps left by the strongest. In the end it will be an unhappy family for the strongest members also because they will be surrounded by the other members who bitterly resent injustice.

The same is true in our home of Singapore. We have got to see that all Singapore citizens get a decent share of the family prosperity and if there are hardship then they must be endured by all and not by some unlucky part of the people.

Moreover if our Singapore family is to have a prosperous home all members of the family, all citizens, must work together to create a pattern of prosperity. If they are struggling with each other and trying to get rich by robbing each other they cannot expect prosperity. There must be sincere goodwill and sincere co-operation.

This exhibition gives you a chance to know something about our Singapore but it cannot tell you everything. There is a great deal more to be known. If we want to live in a prosperous and happy Singapore we must get around and see things for ourselves even if they have nothing to do with our ordinary jobs or our private lives. I spend a lot of my time in going around to different places meeting strangers and talking to them and trying to see things for myself. I hope you, who are listening now, will try to do the same. You will be surprised to find how friendly strangers can be if you come to see them in friendship. In this exhibition you get a lot of information which will give you useful starting points for meeting new people and making new friends. We are now going to give prizes to ten prize-winners who, I suppose, are exceptionally well-informed now about our Singapore. I hope you will all join with me in congratulating them. I now call on Miss Singapore to give these away.

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(Time issued at 1600 hours)

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