THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE "KEEP SINGAPORE POLLUTION FREE CAMPAIGN 1ST OCTOBER 1971

Some things in life can only be enjoyed by a whole society. No amount of private wealth can ensure clean and healthy, green and gracious surroundings. The absence of mosquitoes, flies and other noxious insects, and noise nuisance can only be ensured for and enjoyed by a whole society.

Everyone must share the responsibility to keep up such an environment. Otherwise life becomes unpleasant and even unbearable for all. The Government's responsibility is to see that the administrative machinery for these amenities is efficient. It is up to the people to maintain high standards of conduct. We can educate, persuade and bring social pressure to bear on the wayward. Finally for a miscreant minority which refuses to conform, they must be punished when they violate the laws.

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In the next few years, in several planned phases, we shall get our rivers, streams and canals pollution free. No water, polluted by domestic or industrial use, can go into open drains. All factories have been given ample notice -- one

year's notice from March this year -- to comply with anti-pollution requirements. Industrial effluent must be pre-treated to certain standards before they can be discharged into open drains. If they are to be discharged into sewers, the standards will be less strict.

No clean rain water should be contaminated by being mixed up with dirt, filth or noxious chemicals. One by one, the Stamford, Bukit Timah, Rochore and Geylang canals, Kallang Basin and all rivers and streams will be cleaned up. Then we can greatly increase our water resources, a matter of life and death. This programme must be pursued in accordance with careful plans and with relentless vigour. A valuable by-product of this anti-pollution programme is that fish, prawns and marine life and vegetation will return to foreshores, rivers and canals. For example, Punggol which used to supply some of our best prawns and crabs is now barren, because of the pollution from the Punggol River.

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Meanwhile, the canal between Tanglin Circus, down Orchard Road, to Stamford Road can be slabbed over as a pedestrian mall, with openings for flash floods. It will nevertheless exude no evil smells because the water will be clean in 2-3 years time. With shrubs, trees and kiosks, this mall will add to the amenities of the area.

Whether the Housing Board corridors are clean and quiet, whether their lifts are not dirtied or vandalised, depends not just on the efforts of the Housing Board or the Police. We can teach the children in schools to be neat, tidy and considerate. They will learn not to despoil common user areas like corridors, lifts or parks. Those now in schools will go on to national service. They will be a different, a self-disciplined generation.

The adults we can mobilise through the unions, the clan associations, residents' associations, community centres and the constituency citizens' consultative committees. We must also reach the older and the younger generations through the mass media.

From time to time, we must have these campaigns, to remind everyone that we cannot slacken in our effort to keep Singapore clean and green. It is so easy to slip into sloppy bad habits. In the long run, keeping our homes, roads and parks clean must be a matter of personal habit.

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The higher the density of population, the more difficult it is to achieve this. In the main city area, we are living at around 30,000 per square mile. And with bigger and higher satellite towns, these densities will increase. So it is all the more necessary the better to organise our lives. We must enable people to get

from their homes to their offices or factories with a minimum of traffic jams. We must keep down traffic noise, cutting down noisy exhausts. We must lower the volume of all loudspeakers.

All non-citizens working in Singapore on work permits must be inducted into this way of life in orientation courses. Anti-social habits are not acceptable in Singapore. The punishment for repeated violation of our keep the city clean laws must lead to the withdrawal of work permits and expulsion. We must also keep our radios and televisions volume down and not intrude on neighbours' privacy. We must restore some of the tranquility and serenity of life in our city. We must bring back that appreciation of nature and beauty, of trees and birds, flowers and fountains. These are the hallmarks of a cultivated society.

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