

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. LEE KUAN YEW,
AT THE BALLOTING OF FLATS AT TANJONG PAGAR ON
15TH JUNE 1976

These five residential tower blocks, above 2 stories of shops and offices, represent one of the projects to re-develop the residential areas of the city centre. Similar projects are going on in Kreta Ayer, Rochore and certain other areas. The URA and HDB are working out the most economic and practical way to keep the city centre from becoming empty of residents, and leaving facilities unused at night.

Because land in the central area is expensive, so a 3-room flat in Tanjong Pagar costs \$17,500, 48% higher, compared to \$11,800 in Toa Payoh.

For the same reason, higher land costs, swimming pools, parks, children's playgrounds and sports fields are smaller.

At present, of 71,550 waiting to buy flats, only 2,348 or 3.2% have applied from the central area. Of 15,309 wanting to rent, 1,737 have asked for the central area, mostly 1-room flats.

However, it may become recognised that staying in the central area saves time and money in transportation for those who work in the city. They will also have the advantage of using the shops, restaurants, parks and recreational facilities in the city centre, meant for office workers, but unused in the evenings.

924 new units will be balloted for today, the first time young people are coming back into Tanjong Pagar. For many years, the young have been leaving Tanjong Pagar and other city areas for the new towns. I welcome my new constituents, and look forward to meeting the socially committed and the active. They can help in organising this new community towards considerate living. We must help organise kindergartens and other community facilities, to make life in these 5 new blocks agreeable and convenient for all who live in them.

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