

Release No.: 14/NOV
14-3/87/12/10

SPEECH BY MR LEE YIOK SENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT), AT THE GRADUATION PARADE OF THE 12TH BATCH OF POLICE NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER CADETS AND THE 49TH INTAKE OF POLICE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN AT THE POLICE ACADEMY ON THURSDAY, 10 DECEMBER 87 AT 5.30 PM

The parade this evening marks the successful completion of your training to become police officers, special constables and vigilante members. More importantly, it signifies your formal entry into the Singapore Police Force.

You will soon find yourselves immersed in actual police work and facing real-life situations as you carry out your duties as law-enforcers. What you have learnt in the class-room and on the training ground, you will have to apply effectively on the streets. In your training, you faced role-players in mocked-up scenes, but now you will be dealing with people generally unknown to you - both the law-abiding persons as well as the law-breakers. Your job will not be easy as each situation you tackle will usually be different from the previous one. The fact that you are here today shows that you are ready to meet the challenge head-on!

As you embark on this new phase in your service in the Police Force, you should also bear in mind that other Singaporeans are behind you. The experience of our Police Force has shown, beyond any doubt, that effective police work is possible only with the help of the community.

Maintaining law and order must be the concern of each and every citizen. Our citizens will expect you to provide guidance and to inspire confidence on such matters as crime prevention. In return, you will find the co-operation you receive from them, both encouraging and satisfying. I, therefore, cannot over-emphasize the need for a good and close relationship between the police and the community. Building this relationship depends very much on the professional, courteous and helpful interactions between officers like yourselves and the ordinary members of the public. This relationship is the corner-stone of our successful Neighbourhood Policing Philosophy.

Police/community relations have developed to new heights in the past few years. Members of the public now willingly come forward to offer information to help the police in criminal investigations. This shows the trust and confidence they have in our "men in blue".

The Police Force - and indeed, the Government - depends on each and everyone of you to help sustain and improve on this excellent partnership with the community for you will be looked upon as officers with a wider role than just maintaining law and order. In your work, you will find that you also have to be a social worker, a supervisor and a friend. In whatever role you play and whatever assignments you may be given, you should exercise your duties in accordance with the law firmly but fairly, courageously but caringly and without fear or favour. You must be professional in your approach; you should never allow your personal feelings to affect the proper performance of your duties. And as a friend to the community, you must be patient and courteous in your dealings even with the most difficult of our citizens.

Above all, you must conduct yourselves as an example of good citizenship because you will be looked upon as model citizens. The police officer who considers himself above the law will destroy the respect the public has, not only for himself, but also for all other officers in the Force. The damage to the good image of the Police Force that can be caused by even one officer who misconducts himself can easily mask the good work put in by a hundred officers. You must not allow this to happen.

In conclusion, I would like to commend you on your smart turnout, and congratulate you on your graduation. I wish you all a rewarding and satisfying service with the Singapore Police Force.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE