

Speech by Encik Othman Jok, Minister for Social Affairs and MP for Pasir Panjang, at the Balloting Ceremony for flats at Ayer Rajah on Tuesday, 8 Feb 77 at 2.30 pm at the car park in front of Apartment Block 37, Dover Road

I have been returned in the recent Elections as your MP and I am very grateful for your support. The PAP has been returned to Parliament in all the constituencies and this overwhelming support by the people is an indication of the confidence in the Government and its policies.

2 The percentage of votes for the PAP has increased over that in 1972. With the people's faith and trust, the Government can now proceed to tackle more important tasks that are ahead. You can be sure that the Government will not let you down but will do its best to make sure that Singapore is a good place to live, not only for this generation but for succeeding generations.

3 Occasionally unpleasant measures may have to be taken. When this happens you can perhaps understand that these measures are necessary for the overall development and betterment of our society. We cannot afford to soft-pedal the harsh realities of life. Major policies of Government will be explained to the people so that they will be appreciative of what is being done on their behalf. The people can appreciate the policies which benefit them

and this will be the element which will ensure the success of the Government when it comes to the renewal of a new mandate from the people.

4 Today you are here to share in the ceremony which will provide you with better housing and a better environment to live in compared with what you had previously. In this ballot this afternoon most of the ballots will be for the four and five-room units. The people who will be staying in the flats will be those who have moved out from smaller flats and the young middle-class who would like to set up homes for themselves. When you move into your new estate there will be some problems that you will face until the estate is fully developed. The authorities will be looking into these problems and in the course of time amenities and facilities will be provided to make the estate a pleasant place. You may have to bear the inconveniences for a short while.

5 Some of the problems which residents are facing are being looked into. Major new roads including the North Buona Vista Road, Dover Road/Dover Crescent and Dover Avenue will be lighted up soon to make them safe. Bus services may not cater for every requirement for the time being. New bus services will be introduced as and when

required. The Singapore Bus Service will be observing the sitat situation very closely to work out the travel patterns of the residents so that proper bus routing can be effected. Taxis will ply in the estate when there is sufficient demand for such services. The ROV will no doubt be looking into the possibility of setting up taxi kiosks in the area.

6 By March this year the Hawker and Market Centre in Ayer Rajah will be completed. This should make it easier for the housewives and the residents in the area. Security patrols by the Police will be extended to the estate but residents should also take preventive measures to cut down on crime in the area. As for playgrounds, I have been told that seven sites will be built and tenders have been called.

7 The Pasir Panjang PAP Branch will be having a kindergarten in Block 2, Dover Road. It will have the size of three units of 3-room (improved) flats. This should cater for the needs of some of the young children who have reached kindergarten age. Another facility to benefit the residents is a Community Hall situated in

the same block. This hall will be the size of a 3-room (improved) flat. It is hoped that residents will make use of the Community Hall for recreational and social purposes. Through intermingling you will be able to know your neighbours and co-operate for the improvement of your living environment.

8 May I take this opportunity to wish those of you who are successful in the ballot today all the best and I particularly welcome you to our constituency.

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