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SPEECH BY ENCIK OTHMAN WOK, MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AT THE MALAY CULTURE NIGHT 1977 AT THE PASIR PANJANG COMMUNITY CENTRE ON SATURDAY, 7 MAY '77 AT 7.30 P.M.

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I am glad to be here with you this evening to participate in this Malay Culture Night 1977. A lot of hard work must have gone in to produce this effort but in the process the participants would have thoroughly enjoyed themselves and developed a spirit of co-operation and friendship.

I note that our Pasir Panjang Community Centre Youth Group's cultural activities seem to focus mainly on aspects of Malay Culture. The development of cultural activities in our community should not strictly follow the cultural background of its MP! In Singapore we have a multi-racial background and there should be a conscious fostering of the different cultural patterns in our society. We should allow cultural manifestations of our different language streams and hopefully something in common may arise which can be identified as Singaporeans.

To achieve any degree of good standard in cultural performances, be it in drama, music or dance, a lot of hard work and practice must be put in. The role of the individual must synchronise with the efforts of the team. Even in solo effort the timing and the expression must be well co-ordinated and perfected and these require a lot of patience and hard work. It may be true to say that in cultural activities, practice makes perfect. Of course the element of talent also features strongly.

I would therefore urge you to recruit more youth members to participate in your cultural activities and to have as wide a range as possible of such activities to cater for all interests and talents. Thereafter it is just plain hard work and practice. In time to come we should have good Malay, Chinese, Indian and Western cultural performances in our youth programme of activities.

I would like to congratulate the participants as well as the organisers of this concert tonight and I look forward to better things to come in future.

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