

# SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

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MG/AUG/60/78 (DEFENCE)

28

2 SEP 1978

SPEECH BY THE SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (DEFENCE) AND  
PRESIDENT OF THE SAF RESERVISTS' ASSOCIATION (SAFRA), MR. PHUA  
BAH LEE, AT THE FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT THE SAFRA CLUB-  
HOUSE, LORONG 6, TOA PAYAH, ON SUNDAY, AUG. 27, 1978, AT 4 P.M.

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This fifth annual general meeting marks another milestone in the continued progress of the Association. The past year has witnessed a tremendous rise in membership. The Association's membership has now passed the 50,000 mark. This increase in membership has been matched by a corresponding increase in the number of activities organised by the association.

In view of the high utilization rate of facilities in the present clubhouse and the expected increase in SAFRA membership in the coming years, MINDEF has agreed to construct a second clubhouse which is scheduled to be completed within the next two to three years. It will ideally be situated in the Queenstown region where membership density is second only to our present Toa Payoh district. Some \$7 million have been budgeted to meet the construction cost of the second clubhouse which would provide a more comprehensive range of activities and recreation facilities for reservists and their families.

I would like to take this opportunity to express a word of caution. The additional public funds allotted for the development of the Association must be matched by a concerted effort by members of the Association to encourage an even higher level of participation by reservists and their families. To achieve this, the activities organised by the Association must be broadened in scope and enriched in quality. The SAFRA centres should not only provide the usual recreation facilities but also activities to improve the educational and bi-lingual standards, as well as upgrade the cultural values of reservists and their wives and children. Only when such meaningful activities are organised can reservists be attracted in large numbers to participate actively. As members of the Association, we must not forget that we must always be able to justify the public funds allotted for the existence and continued development of the Association's clubhouses.

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SAFRA was originally set up to cater for the needs of reservists in the SAF. I am happy to announce that the Association will shortly be accepting Police National Service (Full-Time) reservists to become members of the Association. This move will not only result in an injection of fresh talents to the Association but would also encourage the intermingling and exchange of ideas between reservists in the SAF and their counterparts in the police force.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who have come forward to contribute to the success of the Association and I look forward to their continued support in the coming year.

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