

PRESS RELEASE

Information Division, Ministry of Culture, City Hall, Singapore 0617 · TEL 3378191 ext 352 353 354 / 3362207 / 3362271

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**SPEECH BY MR SIDEK SANIFF, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(TRADE & INDUSTRY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS),
AT THE PRESENTATION OF CASH TO CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS BY
THE CHEE HWAN KOG MORAL PROMOTION SOCIETY AT FLOWER ROAD,
ON WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 1983 AT 8.00 PM**

I am happy to be here to officiate at yet another benevolent act of the Chee Hwan Kog and Chee Hoon Kog Moral Promotion Societies. To mark its anniversary celebrations, Chee Hwan Kog will donate \$50,000 to various charitable organisations of which \$10,000 will go to the Mendaki Fund. Chee Hoon Kog, which is a sister organisation to Chee Hwan Kog will also contribute \$5,000 to Mendaki. My colleagues in Mendaki and I would like to thank both societies for their generous donations to Mendaki. Mendaki welcomes the support from all who share and appreciate its objectives and aspirations.

Established in 1966, Chee Hwan Kog has two basic objectives: to promote good morals and to do charity without any discrimination to race, colour, creed or religion. The society has actively organised a wide range of activities since its inception to give effect to these objectives. Since its registration, the society has donated about \$200,000 to the poor, the aged and the sick as well as in the promotion of education and moral values among the younger generations. The Society is able to do all these under the able leadership of its Board of Directors with the close co-operation of its 1,000 members.

Despite the general erosion of the traditional moral values among the populace, it is indeed promising that many individuals of various socio-economic groups are still willing to donate to or help the less fortunate, especially the aged, the disabled and the needy. Aid comes in the form of monetary contributions, voluntary services or moral support. This shows that our people are basically charitable at heart and have not let pragmatic considerations rule their lives entirely. There are indeed promises in the government's efforts to enhance the moral standard of the people. I am confident that the Chee Hoon Kog, Chee Hwan Kog and other concerned bodies will co-operate closely with the government in achieving this objective.

The feeling of concern for others does not spring suddenly in the hearts of individuals. It has to be inculcated, instilled and nurtured at an early age. Thus, it is primarily the task of parents to educate and transmit the proper set of moral values and good manners to their children. If the parents are morally upright, the children will inherit at least some of their moral values. Moral promotion societies must therefore find ways and means to reinforce the moral strength of young parents who have not the opportunity of being exposed to the traditional upbringing.

The Ministry of Education is in the process of reorganising the teaching of moral education in schools. This is an onerous but worthy task which needs the co-operation of parents and concerned organisations. The desire to make Singapore a more caring society must remain our long-term goal.

In this regard, I wish to congratulate the Chee Hoon Kog and Chee Hwan Kog for their invaluable contributions.
