

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

PUBLICITY DIVISION · MINISTRY OF CULTURE · CITY HALL SINGAPORE 6

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21 APR 1979

MC/APR/13/79 (Labour)

Acc. No. NARC

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SPEECH BY MR SIA KAH HUI, MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR,
AT THE GRADUATION PARADE OF REGULAR TRAINEE POLICE
CONSTABLES AND THE 15TH INTAKE OF FULL-TIME POLICE
NATIONAL SERVICEMEN AT THE POLICE ACADEMY ON THURSDAY,
12 APR 79 AT 5:45 PM

I am glad to be here this evening to officiate at the joint graduation parade of the regular trainee Police Constables and the 15th intake of full-time National Servicemen.

All of you have completed the basic course and acquired the necessary discipline, it is no doubt a proud moment for you, but it only marks the beginning. When you are posted to the various police divisions and in the course of discharging your duties, you will have the opportunity to build on this basic foundation.

Full-time Police National Service was introduced barely four years ago. The force now takes in, at three monthly intervals, 500 National Servicemen either as Special Constables or Vigilantes.

For National Servicemen, the basic course is supplemented by a further intensive three month on-the-job training in the units to which they are posted, to acquaint them with the various police procedures and duties, including riot drill and crowd control, management and drill instruction for those selected as instructors in the Police Academy and installation guard duties for others. Some of those in Police National Service Full-time Vigilantes will be posted to the traffic and marine divisions.

The full-time PNS men have acquitted themselves well as reflected in the 6,634 cases they handled last year compared with 4,372 in 1977. They have contributed to the regular police presence by patrolling HDB housing estates and streets, and manning pedestrian crossing points in the urban areas.

From the beginning of this year, the force has introduced a more effective 'Day-time Deployment Scheme' to be carried out by the PNS (Full-time) reservists. The PNS (Full-time) Servicemen, I am happy to note, have also contributed their share to community service - at charitable homes, construction or repair of roads and tracks, or cleaning up and painting of welfare homes. As a result, they have aptly demonstrated that they are the friends and protectors of the people.

This is the image you must continue to uphold when you pass out and go on actual beat and other duties. The Police management is now becoming conscious of the growing role of public relations, as a means to strengthen its rapport with the people. This new outlook is indicated by the force's recent commissioning of the Applied Research Corporation to conduct a survey to determine public opinion on the profile of the police, which came up with some very interesting findings.

All of you thus have an important role to play, as guardians of the nation's interests, in enhancing the image of

our police force, which is reputed to be one of the best in the region. Some of you have GCE 'O' and even 'A' level qualifications. You no doubt will have opportunities to rise up the ladder if you decide to make police work your career. It means putting in hard work, learning your job well and appreciating what you are doing. Some of you have won prizes for good performance in your training period. I congratulate you. But the best prize is yet to come. It comes with your realization that you have discharged your duties with dedication, and firmly yet courteously, and that you have given of your best.

In conclusion, I would like you to always remember this: Keep constantly in your mind's eye that you are part-owners of this piece of land on earth. It is your home. This is where you were born, where you grow up and where you will dwell for the rest of your days. Ask, therefore, always what you can do to improve things, to make life meaningful and worthwhile and this not only for yourselves but for your fellowcountrymen; to lay the foundation and build up a land where your children and children's children may live in peace and joy and harmony in this green and pleasant land of ours.

Let me finally wish you all good health and good fortune in the years ahead.