

- 1 MAR 1982

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15-4/82/02/20.

SPEECH BY MR TEO CHONG TEE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (SOCIAL AFFAIRS)  
AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CHANGI, AT THE KATONG CONSTITUENCY  
NEW YEAR GATHERING AT KATONG YOUTH CENTRE, MOUNTBATTEN ROAD  
ON SATURDAY, 20 FEBRUARY '82 AT 7.30 PM

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I am happy to have been invited to attend the Katong Constituency New Year Gathering this evening. While working with all of you for the Katong constituents, I have been deeply impressed by your enthusiasm and devotion to community service.

Under the able guidance of Mr Conceicao and through the combined efforts of members of the CCC, CCMC, RC, Youth Group and Women Sub-Committee, we have carried out many community activities for the benefit of the constituents. To further expand community service, the Katong Constituency is planning to build a new community centre. With your sustained effort and continued support by the constituents, it is hoped that the new community centre could be up quickly.

Success comes from co-operation and unity. Let me simply illustrate to you an example. It is easy to snap a single chopstick, but not so to snap a bundle of chopsticks. Of course, the greater the number and the better the quality of the chopsticks, the greater the force they could withstand and consequently the more difficult it would be to snap them. This simple illustration tells us that a well-organized body with more people working together will be able to do more work more efficiently and effectively. And more promising young people with better quality and greater confidence are the pillars to ensure still greater success in the future.

As a result of good economic growth and hard work, we are living a comfortable life. We are progressing rapidly in our industrial development. However, what is disturbing is that, owing to the success of our industrialisation and the affluence of our

people, ..... /2.

people, families begin to isolate themselves. On the other hand, the children of today play with electric toys and electronic games instead of with other children. If such a trend is not checked, one day we may find ourselves living in an unfeeling world of robots. Once we lose that spirit of co-operation and unity, the spirit to fight for survival and progress, we shall face the danger of disintegration and failure. We must give serious thought to this problem.

Community centres and community organizations should play a more active role in organizing activities and programmes to foster closer relations and rapport among the people. Activities which meet the needs of society and meaningful traditional games deserve to be promoted. More people in the Constituency should be attracted to participate in such programmes and activities. It is an important task for our community workers in the new year.

I believe that we will achieve success with the effort and support of the constituents. Before I conclude, I wish all of you progress and success in the new year.

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