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**SPEECH BY MR TEO CHONG TEE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS), AT THE INSTALLATION  
OF THE CHANGI CONSTITUENCY YOUTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES  
AT THE CHANGI COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ON SUNDAY, 28 AUGUST 1983 AT 7.30 PM**

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I am indeed happy to be with you this evening to witness the installation of the Changi Youth Executive Committee and the Bedok North Youth Executive Committee. This occasion also provides an opportunity for members of the two Youth Groups to celebrate our 18th National Day, and for them to interact and to get to know each other better.

Youths are our important assets as we have no natural resources. The nurturing of our youths is therefore a vital component in the process of our nation-building. As youths are exposed to good as well as bad influences, it is imperative that they be given proper guidance to prepare them to assume the heavy responsibilities of ensuring the continued progress of our country.

The Youth Groups in community centres are ideal platforms to foster the cooperative spirit among youths and to prepare them for their future social responsibilities. Through organising social, recreational and community service activities, you will learn and acquire leadership and organisational abilities. You will also learn to appreciate the value of team-work and have ample opportunity to put the knowledge and values you

learn in schools and elsewhere into practice. As youth leaders, members of the Youth Executive Committees have the sacred and onerous task of developing a set of positive values themselves, and, more importantly, also of transmitting these value systems to members of your Youth Groups. To have a social impact, you must have a substantial membership. The immediate tasks facing members of the Youth Executive Committees are therefore the organisation of a wide range of activities and programmes, so that you can extend your influence to every youth living in Changi constituency.

Although Singaporeans generally enjoy a good life, there are nevertheless people who are less fortunate than us and who have to depend on charities. Members of Youth Groups could help inject some warmth into their lives by showing them care and concern on a regular basis. You could visit an elderly person living alone in your neighbourhood providing him companionship, help him with household chores, or buy him some hot meals. This does not need much organisation or resources. All you need is a few members to work in a small group and share the responsibility of looking after one such person. There is probably no better way to practise respect for elders than this. On a more organised basis, members of Youth Groups could 'adopt' a welfare home. The value in this lies again in the regularity of service. It is not of much help to the home if you visit the inmates once a year to shower them with gifts and entertainment. They will appreciate it more if you could visit them once a week or a fortnight to keep them company for a few hours on each occasion. In so doing you will be able to strike a cordial relationship with some of them and they will look forward to your visits. This gives them a sense of purpose in their otherwise empty lives.

I am pleased to note that the Bedok North Community Centre Youth Group has already adopted the Home for the Aged Sick in Jalan Payoh Lai run by the Society for the Aged Sick. This is indeed a commendable move. I hope to see more Youth Groups emulate their good example.

I wish to congratulate members of the two Youth Executive Committees on their election. I am confident that you will live up to the trust and expectation of the members of your respective Youth Groups.

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