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

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SPEECH BY MR TEH CHEANG WAN, MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE MND PRODUCTIVITY MONTH AND PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY ON WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 1982 AT 3.00 P.M. AT THE DBS AUDITORIUM

I am very happy to be here today at our Ministry's Productivity Month and Prize Presentation Ceremony. This occasion marks the culmination of the various activities that the many departments have undertaken during the past year. These activities have ranged from the more conventional types such as seminars and courses, to the more innovative such as debates and machinery exhibitions. They were intended either to educate or to remind our staff of the need to raise productivity and improve team work. From the reports I have received, I understand that many of you have been very involved with the activities, either as organisers or participants. Their success speaks well of the team spirit that is in every staff member of MND and its departments. It is also indicative of the loyalty and support that you have been rendering to the Ministry throughout the years.

I am glad to note that as a key feature of our productivity movement, we have amongst the many departments, formed 152 Work Improvement Teams (WITs) to look at the various daily problems of administration. 15 teams have already completed the first studies and made presentations to management for adoption of their ideas. Many of these have helped the departments to either improve work flow or affect cost savings. Two of the teams, one from PWD and another from PPD have also been awarded silver medals by the Civil Service Productivity Committee for their efforts which will help the two departments to save Government more than \$72,000 each year.

As a result...

As a result of the intensive campaign on productivity held during this current Productivity Month, many of our staff are now aware of the great concern that Government has placed on improving work productivity and job attitudes. The productivity movement, however does not end with today's ceremony. Productivity is, and should be a way of life for every staff member of MND and its departments. Our work has a direct impact on the physical well-being of Singapore. If we have good productivity, and constantly try to do better, we can be sure that every citizen in Singapore will stand to benefit from our efforts. There is no better way to serve our country than by giving of our best at every turn, and in every job.

To serve well, we must also have ~~consideration and~~ understanding of the country's problems and the citizen's needs. We cannot do our work in a vacuum, without regard to what is going on around us. Each of us is and should be the eyes and ears of Government to help formulate and implement policies that will do the most good. After all, as citizens, we will be the direct beneficiaries of good policies.

Therefore, the various activities held during our productivity campaign are intended not only to teach our staff the concepts and techniques of improving productivity, but also affirm our interest in open communication and team work. Channels of communication are and will always remain open for ideas to surface. We will all work together as a team to anticipate and solve problems.
