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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**SPEECH BY MR TANG GUAN SENG, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(EDUCATION), AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL PACKAGE  
ON CRIME PREVENTION AT RAFFLES JUNIOR COLLEGE ON MONDAY,  
8 SEPTEMBER 1986 AT 9.30 AM**

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Crime is a social evil. It causes insecurity in law abiding citizens. When a crime is committed, the victim suffers the loss of property, physical injury or pain inflicted on him. There is also the psychological trauma that is left with the victim. Some have to live with fear for the rest of their lives.

The police have found that many types of crimes committed today could be prevented, provided we take precautions. Criminal acts like robbery, snatch theft or housebreaking are committed when opportunities are offered to criminals. Had the victims taken the necessary steps to tighten the physical security of their premises and homes or had taken other preventive measures, many of these crimes could have been avoided. Obviously, the 'self-help' crime prevention approach initiated by the citizens themselves is the best way to prevent crime.

The 'self-help' crime prevention concept is now being propagated widely among members of the public. Many people are practising crime prevention. The public must be made aware that the fight against crime is the joint responsibility of the police and the public, and that the matter should not be left to the police alone.

Towards this objective, the police have introduced several community-oriented programmes to promote crime prevention habits among the general public. Through the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, crime prevention awareness has been widely raised among residents. More and more residents are making efforts to safeguard each other against criminal activities. Business people in commercial and industrial sectors have also been mobilised to prevent crime through the Crime Prevention Committees set up in many business complexes.

Crime prevention is particularly relevant to school students. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, school students are receptive to moral inculcation. Desirable crime prevention habits and attitudes should be systemically inculcated in them when they are young, so that they will be able to protect themselves against crime. Secondly, young people are vulnerable to crime. They could become victims of crime quite easily in view of their young age and ignorance of certain preventive measures. They could become easy prey to criminals who commit robbery, snatch theft and molestation. They must be taught some basic skills to protect themselves against these criminal activities.

A few young people are unfortunately getting involved in offences such as shoplifting, theft and robbery. Among these offences, there has been an increase in shoplifting offences committed by juveniles below 16 years old. In 1985, a total of 446 cases involved juveniles. During the period between Jan and Jun 1986, 171 cases of shoplifting by juveniles were reported - an increase of 24 cases as compared to the same period last year.

Some of these young offenders are school students who are ignorant of the serious consequences of criminal activities such as shoplifting or getting involved in other

criminal activities. While parents have their responsibilities to discipline their children on the undesirability of crime, our teachers should instill in them the moral strength required to act against crime.

As a long term strategy, the Ministries of Home Affairs and Education have jointly worked out a scheme to introduce crime prevention ideas systematically in both primary and secondary schools. With effect from Jan 87, a crime prevention instructional package would be available for use by teachers in schools. The package is targetted at students from Pr 4 to Sec 2.

The objectives of the crime prevention instructional package are three-fold. Firstly, it is intended to inculcate in pupils an awareness of crime prevention and the means they can take to protect themselves from criminals. Secondly, it impresses upon the pupils that involvement in criminal activities is unacceptable to themselves as individuals and to society. Thirdly, it instills in them an understanding of the work of the police so that they will adopt a responsible attitude in their future dealings with the Police.

Finally, I wish to congratulate both the Ministries of Home Affairs and Education for their joint efforts in developing the instructional package on crime prevention for use in our schools. It is my pleasure and pleasant task to launch the package this morning.

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