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SPEECH BY DR WONG KWEI CHEONG, MINISTER OF STATE (LABOUR) AND
CHAIRMAN, VICOM PTE LTD, AT THE STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF
VICOM PTE LTD, SIN MING DRIVE ON 25 NOVEMBER 1981 AT 11.00 AM

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Vicom. This occasion also marks the establishment of the first compulsory car inspection centre in Singapore.

Car Inspection

In 1978, the Minister for Communications, Mr Ong Teng Cheong, announced in Parliament the introduction of compulsory car inspections with effect from January 1982. The surcharge on cars aged ten years and above would also be removed.

In January 1981, Mr Lim Chee Onn announced the formation of Vicom as one of the two companies in Singapore that have agreed to set up inspection centres. Vicom is wholly owned by the Singapore Labour Foundation.

The move towards compulsory car inspections is aimed at reducing environmental pollution as a result of smoky exhausts. This is in line with our national policy of building up a clean and green Singapore.

Car inspections will also improve the roadworthiness of cars, and reduce road accidents resulting from poorly maintained cars.

Compulsory car inspections have already been introduced in some countries like Japan, Sweden, Israel, Germany and Australia.

Vicom

Vicom, located in Sin Ming Industrial Estate, is situated in the vicinity of numerous car repair workshops. The capital investment on the land, building and equipment is about \$6.5 million.

The Board of Directors of Vicom has from the outset planned their activities with three fundamental principles. First, they believe that the system of inspection should be high technology based in order to reduce manpower and achieve high productivity. Second, the inspection system should be objective to avoid corruption and disputes. Third, the operations should result in minimum costs and inconvenience to our motorists.

With these as our guiding principles, we have sent our engineers to Japan, Sweden and Israel to study the best inspection systems available. We finally decided on an automatic inspection system with a modern computer to analyse and print the results. This ensures that the compulsory car inspection policy will be implemented efficiently, objectively and economically.

As a further service to our motorists, we have provided a space in our premises to the Registry of Vehicles so that motorists can pay their road tax immediately after their cars have been inspected.

Promotions

In conjunction with our stone-laying ceremony, a Vehicle Inspection Maintenance and Accessories Exhibition will be held from 25th November to 6th December 1981. The objectives of this exhibition are as follows:

- (a) to enlighten the public about the importance of car inspection
- (b) to exhibit various preinspection and car repair equipment and accessories, and
- (c) to promote Vicom's facilities and services.

In order to assist motor-repair workshops and motorists to understand our inspection system, we have decided to offer free car inspections from the beginning of this month to the end of December. These trial runs will help us to improve the efficiency of our services to the motorists.

Conclusions

Initially, in 1982, only cars more than five years old will be called up for inspection.

ROV will inform the initial batch for inspection of about 3,000 motorists, by the end of December 1981.

Please contact Vicom as soon as you receive your inspection notice and arrange a suitable time for your car inspection.

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