

## Singapore Government

**PRESS RELEASE**

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SPEECH BY DR WONG KWEI CHEONG, MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AT THE  
1982 NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCE CEREMONY AT NTUC-COMFORT/GENERAL  
AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES/VICOM, SIN MING DRIVE ON WEDNESDAY  
11 AUGUST 1982 AT 8.30 AM

Introduction

Today is an auspicious day, as it is the first time that the staff of COMFORT, GAS and VICOM have come together to observe National Day. The purpose of this National Day Observance Ceremony is to remind you the workers, of your roles and responsibilities in nation building.

Those of you who are around 50 years old would have remembered the industrial strikes of the early sixties. For example, in 1961, 410,891 man-days were lost in strikes. Even in 1968, 11,447 man-days were lost. Today we have industrial stability. There were no strikes for the last four years.

Prosperity

This industrial stability has enabled our country to prosper. You the workers, are able to buy your own HDB flats. The COMFORT taxis belong to you. Your livelihood is secured. But you must not be presumptuous. You must continue to work hard to maintain what you have already achieved. Let me illustrate.

A large portion of your income is derived from tourists coming to Singapore. In 1981, there were 2,828,900 tourists, compared to 2,562,100 in 1980, an increase of 10.4 per cent. Tourists require taxis for transport. Taxi drivers play a major role in our tourist industry.

By being ...../2.

By being courteous to the tourists, you will help to make their stay in Singapore more enjoyable. If your taxi is clean and properly maintained, tourists will be impressed. Tourism will grow as one of our major industries. Your income will grow correspondingly. Your HDB flat and your COMFORT taxi will be yours permanently. That is productivity.

### Productivity

Productivity is a very important subject. You are in the services sector. Productivity in the services sector means good and reliable service. We must not slacken in our resolve to be productive. The alternative means disaster.

The world is suffering from a prolonged recession. Unemployment abounds. Britain was recently reported to be planning to introduce incentives to encourage companies to offer two part-time jobs instead of a full-time job. Hopefully this will enable more jobs to be offered to the three million unemployed workers in Britain.

Singapore is fortunate to have full employment. We must continue to maintain this status. We must continue to increase productivity through automation and mechanisation. More importantly, we will continue to inculcate productivity consciousness to our workers. You the workers must after all make the effort to work hard and ensure the success of our productivity movement. Productivity is the key to our future prosperity.

### Conclusion

The message is clear - if you increase your productivity, you will stand to benefit. The challenge is there. Do not be complacent - otherwise you will be overtaken by others. May I now take this opportunity of wishing you and your companies every success in your endeavours.

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