

16 SEP 1988

PRESS RELEASE

Information Division, Ministry of Communications & Information, 36th Storey, PSA Building, 460 Alexandra Road, Singapore 0511. Tel: 2799794/5.

88-W-4-7

Release No.: 74/AUG
01-1/88/08/30

**SPEECH BY PRESIDENT WEE KIM WEE
AT THE LAUNCHING OF "THE CARE & SHARE MONTH"
AT THE SINGAPORE LABOUR FOUNDATION (SLF) AUDITORIUM
ON TUESDAY, 30 AUGUST 1988 AT 7.30 PM**

One of the objectives of the Government is to make Singaporeans more self-reliant and encourage them to tackle problems together as a community. I am, therefore, happy to note the growth in the numbers of volunteers and voluntary charitable organisations dedicated to helping the less-endowed and less-fortunate in one way or another.

I want to express my appreciation once again to all volunteers and voluntary charitable organisations for their efforts through the past year. By your generous contributions, you are helping to make Singapore a more compassionate society.

In 1983, the Government encouraged the setting up of the Community Chest of Singapore by the Singapore Council of Social Service. Through the Chest, fund-raising activities are now centralised, making it easier for Singaporeans to contribute to charity. The Community Chest has done well. Under the able guidance of its President, Dr Ee Peng Liang, the Chest has been able to raise sufficient money to meet its commitments.

It has come out each year with varied ways of fund-raising to attract new donors and sustain support. The Charity Sweep launched at the beginning of this month is one such new fund-raising activity. Other individuals, corporate organisations and concerned groups have also

embarked on new and interesting ways to raise funds for the Chest. These efforts have helped to meet its targets and fulfil its commitments.

The mainstay of the Community Chest is the Social Help and Assistance Raised by Employees Scheme, better known as the SHARE Programme. It contributes 36 per cent of the funds raised annually by the Chest. Its chief attraction is that a steady and continued flow of funds is ensured, incurring little collection cost, through the fixed amounts contributed monthly by employees.

The SHARE Programme is also convenient. All the employee needs to do is to fill out a pledge form indicating the amount he or she wants to donate monthly and send it to his employer. The amount pledged will be automatically deducted from his monthly payroll until he instructs otherwise. Alternatively, a person can fill in a SHARE-GIRO form and arrange for monthly deductions to be made by his or her bank or through his or her credit card account.

Last year the Community Chest conducted a survey to assess the attitude of individuals and corporations towards charity. Seventy per cent of the 1,000 individual respondents stated that they would join the SHARE Programme if it were implemented in their workplace, because it was a convenient and affordable way of supporting charities. Yet, so far, only 16 per cent of the workforce of 1.1 million are currently members of SHARE Programme. If every worker were to give just one dollar a month, the Community Chest would have less problem meeting its target of \$12 million this year.

The experience of the Community Chest has shown that where chief executives of an organisation underline their support for and interest in the SHARE Programme by actively

encouraging their staff to join, the percentage of employees of that organisation, who become members of the SHARE Programme, is correspondingly high. I, therefore, urge all chief executives to show the way to their staff by encouraging them to join the SHARE Programme. The Community Chest of Singapore will be ready to help you explain the objectives and workings of the Chest to them.

Although the SHARE Programme is aimed at employees, the Community Chest has also made it possible for persons who are not employees to participate in the SHARE Programme. Such persons can instruct his or her bank to make the monthly deductions or pay through his or her credit card account. The opportunity to help is just a pen away and I urge all of you to reach out for your pen and show that you care and are willing to share by filling in the pledge form.

The opportunity for all of us to do our bit to share and to resolve our problems as a community is vast. It is my sincere wish that we will avail ourselves of this opportunity and make Singapore proud as a self-reliant compassionate society.

I have now great pleasure in launching Care and Share Month 1988.

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