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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 EUGENE YAP, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(LABOUR) AT THE BALLOTING OF FLATS FOR TANJONG RHU C4
ON THURSDAY, 7.2.85 AT 2.30 PM AT THE CAR PARK
BETWEEN APT BLOCKS 10 & 11 JALAN BATU**

First, allow me to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to this Constituency. Most of you would probably know by now that this little corner of the island has become part of Mountbatten Constituency. These two blocks of flats that will be balloted soon once used to house over 6,000 people living in very small flats - rather dense and crowded. Today they have been re-converted to larger flats and the number of people who will be living in them will be drastically reduced to 1,000 plus. Imagine the tremendous amount of space and comfort that has been created for these new families.

There was also a rather old community centre on the ground floor of one of these blocks. The community centre has moved to a new home just next to Block 12. It is a magnificent building which you can see on your left as you come into this estate from Mountbatten Road. All these form part of the continuous upgrading of the quality of life for all Singaporeans.

The new Katong Community Centre has just been completed at a cost of \$3,587,000. With this new centre, many more useful activities can be organised. I would think that a good theme for this community centre might be "Towards Better Cultural and Educational Achievements". There is a very large dance studio in this community centre. We must be able to find a few good instructors to

help teach ballet or some other dances to our young and not so young. Space can be set aside for piano and organ lessons. A bolder programme would be to convert one of the function rooms into a theatrette where useful educational films can be shown. So you can see there is plenty we can achieve through this community centre. It is a modern one and I am sure all of you will be proud of it and will look after it and keep it clean and well maintained so that you can enjoy this centre for a long time.

This little section of the island where you will all be residing in, will become a more and more interesting and exciting place to live in, as the various educational, recreational, social and cultural developments take shape. Just west of where we are, a very bold and ambitious project is underway. This is the Kallang Theatre. When completed, the theatre will be fully equipped for full-scale dance and musical performances including operas, concerts and theatrical shows. It will also have facilities for SBC to do live TV transmissions or recordings of popular music or variety-type presentations. It will have a seating capacity of 1,800. This theatre is being renovated at the cost of \$12.8 million.

Next to the Kallang Theatre is the National Stadium which you all are most familiar with. Its beauty and grandeur will be further enhanced in the future as soon as the proposal for the Singapore Sports Council to build a modern international indoor stadium can get underway. I believe the stadium will conform to specifications of international standards and will cost about \$45 million to build. A variety of indoor sports can be staged in this stadium when completed.

All these will add to the magnificence of living in this part of Mountbatten Constituency. But right now to my mind, there is a lack of greenery in this estate. This problem, however, will soon be over when the Area Office converts the old basketball court in front of Block 10 to a landscaped site where you can look forward to spend relaxing evenings there. The Area Office will also be looking into various ways and means to spruce up this estate. There are lots we can do here ourselves to make Mountbatten a better place to live in. For this, I will require your assistance and contribution. You would have heard the saying: "Rain does not fall on one roof alone." This is very true especially in HDB estates where all kinds of people live together. If our neighbours are not happy, they will easily affect us. If we are not happy, we will affect our neighbours. Those who are more settled should therefore make it a point to spare some time to help us assist the less fortunate.

Our Scholarship and Welfare Fund must be increased within the next 2 to 3 years to \$400,000; part of the interest of which will be used to help more children of the lower income group to go through secondary and tertiary education with less financial strain. Of course, it is expected those who require our help need to have reasonably good results. They will come from families with relatively lower total household income. Those with much better results will be given scholarships. The maximum household income criterion will not be applicable in this case. To date, we have awarded nearly \$14,000 worth of bursaries and nearly \$7,000 worth of scholarships over the past two years.

In line with the various developments that are going on around this Constituency, we are also planning to set up a Mountbatten Constituency Community Development Fund. We hope to raise \$200,000 for this fund, the interest of which will be used to support activities of a cultural or

educational nature. We hope that certain of the better cultural or educational performances that are usually quite expensive will be brought to our community centre through the Community Development Fund to give more people a chance to enjoy them.

The CCCs, MCs and RCs and other grassroots organisations will also be beefing up their funds to provide more social activities in order to help promote friendship and neighbourliness among all our residents. We hope that you will support these activities when the time comes. There is plenty on our slate and it is certainly my hope that you will make it a point to put aside time to help us, so that together we will all be able to carve out for ourselves a nice little corner on this island to live in. We call it Mountbatten Constituency.
