

28 NOV 1985

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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85-45-6

Release No. 28/NOV  
12-3/85/11/10

**SPEECH BY MR EUGENE YAP, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(LABOUR AND ENVIRONMENT), AT THE OPENING OF QUALITY  
DAY AT THE MARINE PARADE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ON SUNDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 1985 AT 2 PM**

You are all familiar with the saying "Charity begins at home". Some of you would also be familiar with the longer version of it - "Charity begins at home, but should not end there". Like charity, productivity must also begin at home and should not end there.

Productivity at home involves prudent money management, resource management and the fostering of healthy human relations. Prudent money management requires us to shop wisely, and by prudent resource management, we all mean "energy-saving". The need to foster healthy human relations at home is obvious.

You know when I was in Japan some years ago, I was rather amused to learn that some people there are so productivity-conscious that they even bring back and apply the concepts of quality circles at home. So, when there is something to discuss, let's say, whether to buy this or that, you can well imagine Pareto diagrams, Histograms, Fish Bone Charts and statistical figures tossed about the home to help family members arrive at a decision. That is really productivity-at-work. Through healthy discussions, many conflicts at home can be avoided. I am therefore glad that the NPB has seen it fit to demonstrate to you later, how decisions can be made at home and problems solved without conflicts.

To show how productivity is relevant to you, we have designated today as "Quality Day". The activities that are organised have been designed to drive home the point that productivity must begin at home. There will be ample examples to demonstrate to you how you can seek improvements in your daily life. I believe the forum will discuss "How to better manage your time", "How to shop wisely" and "How to save water and energy bills". These are all meaningful and self-explanatory topics and they will certainly help to make you more aware of how you can be more productivity-conscious as you go about your day-to-day housework. By you being examples of a productivity-conscious father and mother, your children will certainly pick up from very young, the right productivity attitudes and habits.

You should all watch the cooking competition today. It is not the usual cooking competition you see at the various community centres. In today's competition, the concepts learnt at the forum will be put into practice in a simple activity-like cooking. Concepts like time management, budgeting and planning are tested in the competition so that you can be convinced how productivity is relevant to your daily life.

This year, the theme for the Productivity Month is on quality improvement and cost reduction. The slogan "Come On Singapore - Let's All Be The Best We Can Be". To be the best we can be, means that every Singaporean has to aim to achieve his maximum potential. If everyone does his best at home and at work, then the community is doing its best and the country too is doing its best. Hence, productivity must begin at home and should not end there. This must be our mission.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased now to declare this forum open.