

# Singapore Government **PRESS RELEASE**

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**SPEECH BY DR YEO NING HONG, MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
DEFENCE AT THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF  
THE KIM SENG WOMEN'S SUB-COMMITTEE AT KIM SENG  
COMMUNITY CENTRE, 570 HAVELOCK ROAD ON SATURDAY  
18 JUNE 1983 AT 7.40 PM**

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First of all let me congratulate the Women's Sub-Committee of Kim Seng for serving the people of this constituency for the past 15 years. They, together with all the other community leaders, have helped transformed this constituency into what it is today. They have given generously of their time, their effort and their energy and the community at large have benefited.

A nation can only be as great as its citizens. Similarly, a constituency can only be as good as the residents who live in it and the people who serve it. In Kim Seng, we have been fortunate in that there has always been a large number of people who have tirelessly, given their services to the community. Their service span the entire spectrum of life in the community touching the lives of our very young to our school children, our youth and adults and our senior citizens. Nobody in Kim Seng can claim that he has not benefited from the effort and service of our community workers.

Our women community leaders are right at the forefront together with their male counterparts serving everyone in these activities. For the very young they organise pre-school classes and kindergartens. For

school children, they provide tuition classes preparing them for Primary III and Primary VI examinations as well as the regular children's party. They are also active in our youth work organising camps, tours, picnics and other outdoor activities. For the adult residents in Kim Seng, our community leaders participate in residents' committees to help keep the environment clean, to liaise with the authorities to make sure that lifts are properly maintained, drains are clean and street lights working. They also organise film shows and exhibitions to keep our people entertained and well informed about activities in Singapore. They conduct visits to places of interest for older residents who want to visit Changi Airport and other outstanding sights in Singapore. For housewives, these community leaders organise cooking and sewing classes and competitions. Recently, two years ago, they have started a senior citizens' club to provide our senior citizens with its own TV and video set and tapes. All these activities would not have been possible without the effort of the WSC and other women community leaders.

All these activities also help to bring our residents together, to know each other. They promote a greater sense of participation in our community life and a greater sense of neighbourliness amongst our residents.

With all these activities going on already, does it mean that other residents can sit back, be complacent and enjoy the benefits and allow the community leaders to carry on with their good work? The answer to that is obviously, no. Notwithstanding the good work done, as a society, we must always, look for better and improved ways of creating a better community. We must encourage all those who are not

participating in community activities at all to come forward to help. There should be a continuous inflow and input of new ideas and new activities to keep the community life active. If we do not have a steady input of new and younger community leaders, very soon, our community life would stagnate and deteriorate. If that happens, then we, the people of Kim Seng have only ourselves to blame. Our children will have less amenities to enjoy, our youth less activities to participate in, our adults less secure in their own homes and our residents and senior citizens, strangers to each other. Therefore, I would urge all residents in Kim Seng both male and female, all who wish to create a better environment and home in this constituency, to come forward and play an active part in our community life. Together, we can make this a better place to live in for ourselves, our neighbours and our friends.

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