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**SPEECH BY MR TEO SER LUCK,
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH AND SPORTS,
AND COUNCIL MEMBER OF NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL,
AT THE PROJECT GREENGRASS “ASPIRE!”,
ON THURSDAY, 20 JULY 2006, AT 4.00 PM,
AT DOWNTOWN EAST**

Glenn Lim
Founder
Awakening Productions

Ms Jenny Sim
Assistant Superintendent
Singapore Police Force

A good afternoon to all the young people here today

It gives me great pleasure to be here with you at today's Project GreenGrass **ASPIRE!** event, and to see so many people gathering together to take their stand against crime.

“The Dangers of Crime”

2 I am sure that all of you understand the dangers of crime. Crimes like shoplifting, gangsterism and outraging of modesty are getting more common among youths today. They turn to such avenues because it gives them excitement and thrill, or because they want to impress their friends or “fit in”. They want to “live for the moment” and do not think about the consequences they will have to face.

3 Getting involved in vice is often the beginning of a slippery slope downward. If you get involved in a gang, it is very difficult to get out. Once you have stolen, you often become bold enough to try it again. Once you try drugs, you might become addicted and it will be difficult to stop. It becomes a negative lifestyle for both you and your loved ones.

4 Furthermore, if you get caught, the penalty for crimes is very high. You can be sent to a Home or be jailed for months and even years. Do you

think this will be worth it? Think of all the things that you might lose - your family, friends, your freedom. Why risk all of these on a moment of folly?

“Living a Positive Lifestyle”

5 As a young person today, there are many pressures that you might face in school, or from your parents or your friends. However, crime is definitely not a way out of it. You will never find true friendship in a gang or gain long-term comfort by taking drugs. There are definitely many other ways to channel your energies!

6 Take Glenn for example, he used to be a rock musician. He was a ‘paikia’, and was involved in gangs. His rocker lifestyle led him into the world of drug usage. However, he is now a musician and a youth ambassador who speaks out against drugs and negative lifestyles. He is an exemplary person who has channelled his artistic talents to live and promote a positive lifestyle instead of turning back to vice.

7 Maybe not all of you are musically talented, but I am sure you have different talents. Some of you may like to dance, sing or act. Some may like sports or do community work. Do use your creative gifts and talents wisely. If you are troubled, you can speak to your parents or your school counsellor. If you know of your friends are in trouble, advise them to seek help.

8 You can all be ambassadors in your own right. If you lead positive lifestyles and are still “hip”, “happening”, “cool”, then your peers will want to be like you. All of you have the potential to be positive role models.

Conclusion

9 Before I end, I would like to congratulate Mr Glenn Lim from Awakening Productions and the Singapore Police Force for putting this event together. Together with the schools and students involved, let’s promote positive living in Singapore.

10 Remember - you can make a positive difference! Crime is not an answer to anything. Use your potential and pursue your passion to be people who live healthy lifestyles, and who are role models to others.

11 Thank you and I wish you a fulfilling time at this event.