

Pasir Ris-Punggol town rewards local cleaners

THE challenge of keeping estates in Pasir Ris-Punggol Town Council clean is compounded by the difficulty in attracting and retaining local cleaners, Dr Ahmad Magad, a Member of Parliament for Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC, said yesterday.

This is due to their relatively low remuneration package, said Dr Ahmad, who is also the town council's chairman.

"The high attrition rate affects the daily cleaning operation of our estates," he said at the Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC Town Day held near Sengkang Community Hub.

The event was attended by about 5,000 residents and guests.

The town council, which implemented the Local Workers

Incentive Scheme in 2008, handed out awards to 32 local cleaners yesterday.

This was the sixth time it handed out cash awards to not only motivate local workers, but also to encourage them to stay on the job.

Exemplary full-time workers received \$200 each, while those who work part-time received \$100 each.

The town council employs 450 local cleaners.

Dr Ahmad announced that the precinct comprising blocks 463 to 487 - located in Pasir Ris Street 41, Drive 6 and Drive 4 - will undergo upgrading under the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

More than 30 blocks of flats have also been selected for the



GOOD NEIGHBOURS: DPM Teo Chee Hean, an MP for Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC, yesterday urged the town's residents to be gracious neighbours. (PHOTO: THE STRAITS TIMES)

Lift Upgrading Programme, he added.

The guest of honour, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean, urged residents to promote gracious living through public-education and awareness programmes,

joint-advisory house visits and community involvement.

Mr Teo, who is an MP for the GRC, said: "Your neighbours share the same common areas as you. All we need...is a little care and consideration, just as we do within our homes."