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Speech by Dr. Lee Chiew Meng, Minister of State for Education,  
at the Second Reading of the Ngee Ann Technical College (Amendment)  
Bill on 30th December, 1970.

The Ngee Ann Technical College was established in 1963 by the Ngee Ann Kongsi and was registered under the Education Ordinance as a private institution financed and administered by the Ngee Ann Kongsi. Since then, 3 teams of experts have been invited to make detailed studies on the functions and development of the College. All of them recommended drastic changes.

2. In 1967, following the acceptance by the Ngee Ann Kongsi of the recommendations contained in the Thong Saw Pak Report, the Ngee Ann College was organised as a community college. It was reconstituted by statute (Number 28 of 1967) with its management vested in a Council. In 1969, it was decided that the Ngee Ann College should concentrate on technical and commercial courses and phase out the existing academic courses. The College officially became known as the Ngee Ann Technical College following the passing of the Ngee Ann Amendment Act in March, 1970.

3. The Government recently negotiated a loan of \$9 million with the Asian Development Bank for the development of the College. Of the \$9 million, approximately \$2.5 million will be spent on buildings for instructional purposes including a student's union, a canteen and recreational facilities. The library space will be doubled and half a million dollars will be allocated for the purchase of books and periodicals. \$4½ million will be spent to provide additional equipment to expand the Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Commerce Departments. A second language laboratory and Audio Visual Aid Department will be established. Approximately \$1½ million will be set aside for staff development programme.

4. The 5-year expansion programme will provide educational facilities to serve the student population of about 3,000 compared with the present enrolment of 900. It is expected to produce 400 technicians by 1975 as against 50 in 1971 and the staff will be increased from the present strength of 34 to 150 during the next 5 years. At the end of the project period i.e. by 1975, Ngee Ann Technical College will be developed into one of the best equipped in this region.

5. If the rate of expansion in our economic development is sustained at the present level, there will be greater demand for skilled personnel as well as trained executives. It is therefore reasonable to assume that there will be continuous expansion of the College after the project period.

6. Difficulties were encountered in the negotiations with the Asian Development Bank for the loan on account of the peculiar position of the College in that it did not own the land on which development was to take place. The granting of the Asian Development Bank loan is conditional upon the alienation of the land at Clementi Road to the College within a period of 90 days from the date of the signing of the agreement.

7. Under the provisions of Section 17(b) of the Ngee Ann Technical College Act, the income and property of the College shall, *inter alia*, include such immovable property as the Ngee Ann Kongsi may, subject to the provisions of Section 20 of the Ngee Ann Kongsi (Incorporation) Ordinance, alienate or donate to the College. Section 20 provides that the Ngee Ann Kongsi will have to apply for the leave of the Supreme Court to alienate or donate land to the College and that an application for such leave shall be made without a resolution being first passed at a general meeting of the members held for this purpose. When the Ngee Ann Kongsi accepted the Thong Saw Pak Report which *inter alia* recommended that the properties at Clementi Road be endowed to the College, the Committee of Management of Ngee Ann Kongsi in the same year passed a resolution to rent out the property at Clementi Road to the College at a nominal sum of \$1/- a year and donate to the College 50% of its nett income or \$100,000/- annually whichever is more. A few days ago the Ngee Ann Kongsi at an extraordinary general meeting passed a resolution to donate approximately 40 acres of land together with the property thereon to the College for development. It will now take sometime for the legal process to be completed.

8. It is envisaged that further adjustment of the land may be necessary for future expansion plans of the College. To avoid this tedious and time-consuming process of alienation of land to the Ngee Ann Technical College which was established by the Ngee Ann Kongsi themselves, it is necessary to amend Section 17 of the Ngee Ann Technical College Act as proposed in the present Bill. This will enable the Ngee Ann Kongsi to alienate or donate immovable property to the College by the Management Committee of the Kongsi notwithstanding the procedures laid down in Section 20 of the Ngee Ann Kongsi (Incorporation) Ordinance. The future development of the College will then not be unnecessarily hampered as has happened.