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TEXT OF A SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. LEE

KUAN YEW, AT THE OPENING OF THE HONG LIM PARK

AND OPEN-AIR THEATRE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1960.

The last time we had a mass rally here was nearly a year ago on the eve of poll for the General Elections, Friday, May 29, 1959. That was a very different occasion, and a very different temper prevailed. Then the people knew that on the following day, May 30, the immediate future of Singapore was to be decided. They turned up in the tens of thousands to cheer and to support the PAP to win. We shall long remember that historic night. There was excitement in the air as the people gathered to listen to the PAP candidates from Anson, Sepoy Lines, Kreta Ayer, Telok Ayer, Hong Lim, Havelock and Tanjong Pagar. All the candidates who met here that memorable evening of the 29th May won and won decisively.

But in a way I am a little sad tonight. There are two historic meeting places in Singapore. They are bound up with the great events and mass rallies of

the last five years. One was the children's playground at Banda Street behind Tung Fung and the other is here in Hong Lim Green. There can be no more mass rallies on these two fields any more. At Banda Street, where the PAP first grew its roots deep into the hearts of the people, there is now a children's creche built by the PAP to help working mothers with their children while they are out at work. And tomorrow a community centre situated next to this creche is to be opened by the Assemblyman for Kreta Ayer, Dr. Goh Keng Swee. And so the massive demonstrations of strength and solidarity that the people staged under the leadership of the PAP at Banda Street playground and here in Hong Lim Green will only remain in our memories.

But it is only a passing moment of nostalgia. Life should progress. And progress it has been in the one year since the PAP took over the reigns of the Government. These two unkempt vacant fields have been transformed into places for the recreation, relaxation of our people and our children seeking respite from the tedium and claustrophobia of our city slums. We have provided all the best amenities for the benefit of our poor and underprivileged. These two small projects symbolises the will and resolve of the people's Government to build and construct for the benefit of all our people of whom the majority are the poor workers and hawkers.

APRIL 23, 1960.

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