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**SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER MR LEE KUAN YEW**  
**AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NTUC PASIR RIS RESORT**  
**ON SATURDAY, 29 OCTOBER 1988**

The opening of this Pasir Ris Resort marks a milestone in the history of Singapore. It equals in design, facilities and holiday atmosphere the best of seaside resorts in the region.

When HDB's Pasir Ris New Town is completed and occupied, bus services will be frequent. By 1990, the MRT will be within 700 metres walking distance. Singapore workers will have an easily accessible and affordable holiday resort.

It is tripartite cooperation of government, unions and management that has made for our success. Tripartite cooperation has ensured harmonious industrial

relations. Singapore has been strike-free since 1978, except for a two-day strike in 1986 by workers in a small company called Hydril Ltd.

Tripartite cooperation actually built this resort. The Government gave 14.7 hectares of land on TOL for a token annual rent. Employer organisations have contributed \$11 million, and the PAP Community Foundation has donated \$1 million. The big donors deserve mention: Each \$1 million - TAS, POSB, Shell, SBS, Singapore Pools, SPH and BTC (Bukit Turf Club). \$500,000 each - DBS Bank, DBS Land, JTC, National Iron & Steel, NOL, Sembawang Group, STPB and TDB. The balance to make up \$38 million came from NTUC, SLF, NTUC Cooperatives and affiliated unions.

Voluntary and free services of many executives and professionals on the directorship of Pasir Ris Resort Pte Ltd helped design and execute this building.

(Names in Annex).

National Archives of Singapore

The younger generation of NTUC leaders have expanded the benefits that members can get, apart from the traditional benefits, i.e. improvements in pay and conditions of service. Since 1985, the NTUC Membership Card Benefits Scheme gives 200,000 NTUC members 5-15 per cent discounts on purchases at many shops - clothing, florists, food (restaurants), sport goods, bookshops; travel

- supermarkets and departmental stores, at Singapore Sport Council swimming pools and other sport/recreation centres, and at childcare centres.

Since 1986, the NTUC Club has assumed responsibility for the Card Benefits Scheme and also operated a lounge in Shenton Way from 1987. Club facilities are excellent. The patronage is now 25,000 a month. Another lounge will be opened in Jurong in December this year, and two more lounges elsewhere in the next two years.

A feasibility study for a golf course at Sungei Seletar Reservoir, next to Yishun New Town, may lead to a country golf club in three years' time.

Our society has no class divisions. Our parents or grandparents all started at the bottom of the social ladder. They were poor and landless from China, India, or the Malay archipelago. Their descendants have become shopkeepers, bankers, entrepreneurs and professionals.

Education makes it possible for the enterprising and the hardworking to climb up the economic and social ladder. Inheriting property is no guarantee of staying up at the top if a person does not have it in him.

However, not all are going to get to the top. But whether middle, lower middle, or low income, no one needs to be excluded from enjoying the facilities which the successful can enjoy, whether they be resort hotels, golf courses, country clubs, saunas or disco or whatever.

By providing these facilities to the workers, NTUC is removing any sense of psychological exclusion the middle and lower income groups may otherwise feel if they were denied to certain things in life.

I congratulate all of you who have made this Resort a reality and wish you more success so that the workers of Singapore can have access to the best of recreational and leisure facilities.

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ANNEX**PASIR RIS RESORT PTE LTD**

- 1 Mr Alan F C Choe (Chairman)  
Senior Partner  
RSP Architects, Planners & Engineers
- 2 Mr Lim Hock San  
Director-General  
Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore
- 3 Mr Edwin Choo  
Managing Partner  
Edwin Choo & Partners
- 4 Mr Chen Meng Sheng  
Manager  
World Trade Centre Club
- 5 Mr Sonnie Lien Tiong Wah  
General Manager  
Mandarin Hotel Singapore
- 6 Mr David Wong Chin Huat  
Partner  
Ramdas & Wong Advocates and Solicitors
- 7 Mr Wong Chip Mun  
Deputy Secretary-General  
Singapore Manual & Mercantile Workers' Union
- 8 Mr Lee Mun Hou  
President  
Singapore Port Workers' Union
- 9 Mr Wong Lam Wo  
Executive Secretary  
Singapore Labour Foundation

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