

# Singapore Government

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SPEECH BY MR LEE YIOK SENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT), AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW MARSILING COMMUNITY CENTRE AT WOODLANDS NEW TOWN ON SATURDAY, 26 JUNE 1982 AT 8 PM

It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening to officiate the opening of the Marsiling Community Centre.

The new community centre is not only a beautifully designed and well equipped building, it is also a landmark which stands as a living testimony to the cooperative spirit and enterprise of the government and the people in the community.

The project costs about \$2 million with approximately \$1.5 million contributed by the government and about \$½ million raised and donated by the constituents. The major items of expenditure include construction cost about \$1.75 million, and furniture and fixtures about \$250,000. The centre has a wide range of modern sports and recreational facilities, such as a basketball court, sepak takraw court, study room, meeting room, home classroom, fitness room, photo-processing dark room, music room, squash court, two kindergarten classrooms and a dance studio for music and dance lovers.

It is therefore a good place for residents to relax and entertain themselves, or simply, just to meet new friends and forge old acquaintances.

As the country progresses, the development of community centres in Singapore has also entered into a modern phase. Today, not only do we see better-equipped community centres, we also expect to see a much more sophisticated and responsible management in the running of the centres. The old management style suitable for running small community centres with simple activities is no longer adequate. Modern management of community centres demands continuous

improvements in the programmes, innovation of ideas and activities, and enlightened management in approaching new challenges.

In organising and promoting community activities, the Citizens' Consultative Committees, the Residents' Committees, and the Community Centre Management Committees all have an important role to play. While each of them may have a different set of programmes and priorities, some may be more involved with welfare development such as fund raising for community activities, award of scholarships and bursaries to students in the community; others may be involved with social and recreational activities to promote a more healthy mind and body, and still others may concentrate on activities which improve the environment by promoting social harmony and neighbourliness. They are all there to serve the general interests.

Within our constituency, therefore, the three committees are all there to serve our residents and promote their welfare. For the sake of harmony and neighbourliness, I sincerely hope that each of the committee members can give of his best, so that all can work together to identify our residents' needs, organise programmes and activities to meet those needs, and encourage participation in the programmes, so that eventually we will have a community centre that can be said to have played a great part in improving our lifestyle and living environment.

It is now my pleasure to officially declare open the Marsiling Community Centre. I have no doubt that under the guidance of our RC, CCC and CCMC, the community centre can grow and develop steadily.

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