National Archives
Singapore
31 AUG 1988

Singapore Government
PRESS RELEASE
Information Division, Ministry of Communications & Information, 36th Storey, PSA Building, 460 Alexandra Road, Singapore 0511 Tel: 2799794/5

88-445-10

Release No: 45/AUG
14-3/88/08/19

SPEECH BY MR LEE YIOK SENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) AT THE SPEECH DAY AND PRIZE PRESENTATION AND 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF CHESTNUT DRIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL ON 19 AUGUST 1988 AT 9.55 AM

A Speech Day and Prize Presentation is an important event in any school, more so when it coincides with the school's 20th anniversary celebration. You, the staff and students of Chestnut Drive Secondary School, must be proud to be here to celebrate this milestone in your school's history. And I thank you for inviting me to be part of this memorable event.

Chestnut Drive Secondary School is one of the first secondary schools to be set up soon after Singapore became an independent nation. It is in fact the only Government secondary school in the Bukit Panjang district. As our nation progressed, so too has the school built up a record of improvements and achievements. It has catered to the educational and developmental needs of the children in the Hillview, Woodlands, Teck Whye and Bukit Batok areas for two decades.

The school itself has also undergone many physical improvements over the years. It now has excellent facilities comparable to any other secondary schools. Among other things, it has an air-conditioned library, AVA Room and Language Laboratories.

I am glad to know that in scholastic achievements, Chestnut Drive Secondary School has done very well, true to its motto "Strive for Excellence". Many of the students

made it to Junior College, the Polytechnics and the Universities. Performance in second language has been excellent, thanks to the quality and the dedication of the teachers. I was told that several students performed very well in the Tamil oratorical contest. This is very encouraging indeed since we should all try to preserve our mother tongues. In art, one of the students won first prize in the 1987 "Discover Singapore" Secondary School Art Competition.

In ECA, your performance is just as good, I was told. I find it truely remarkable and most inspiring that you are the National Champion in the Inter-school Air Rifle Competition for five consecutive years. This is a school of sharpshooters; you aim well and you hit well. This year the Air Rifle girls came in second in "B" Division, and third in "C" Division and in the Individual Championship. So the girls, too, can shoot well.

Most of the students of the Chestnut Drive Secondary School live in the nearby areas, including some HDB estates. Soon, with the completion of Bukit Panjang New Town, more students would enrol in the school. It is important that the school consciously plans its programmes to meet the intellectual, physical and social needs of these children and teenagers. It is also important that the school maintains close links with the community of which you are a part. I am glad that the school has been encouraging its pupils to participate in the various functions organised by the community centre, such as telematch and basketball competitions. In turn, the community leaders were also invited to serve on the School's Advisory Committee. It is an excellent arrangement.

The school is endowed with a team of professional, hardworking and caring teachers. Led by a capable principal, the teachers, I am sure, will continue to spare

no efforts in providing an all-round education so that the students will grow up intellectually developed, socially responsible and physically fit. All these will help prepare them to be the examplary adult citizens of Singapore.

However, let us not forget that principals and teachers, as important as they are, cannot alone ensure success. Equally important, you, the students, must know and play your part. In school, as in life, even the small things you learn will add up into a bundle of knowledge. What you learn will enable you to better contribute not only to your own well-being, but also to the well-being of your loved ones, your fellow citizens and your country.

You must make use of every opportunity to learn from your teachers. Let me leave you with three phrases which I regard as the "tripod of success": (i) INTEREST, (ii) PERSEVERENCE and (iii) PAYING ATTENTION. Try to develop interest in your lessons; try to see the purpose and meaning of the subjects you must learn. Do not give up even when the going gets tough; do persevere and ask for assistance if necessary. And, most important, you must always pay attention. If you do not, the teachers may think you already know and you will miss something. Give some thought to what I have just said.

Finally, on this auspicious occasion, I would like to congratulate all the students who will be receiving prizes today. For those who are not receiving any, it does not mean that your performance was poor. Prizes are but tokens of encouragement. All who work hard will eventually be rewarded in many other ways.

- - - - - - - - - -