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SPEECH BY MR MOHAMAD MAIDIN BIN PACKER MOHD,

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MP FOR MARINE PARADE GRC AT KAMPUNG UBI
NATIONAL DAY DINNER 1999 ON SATURDAY, 7 AUGUST 1999 AT 8.00 PM

National Archives of Singapore

Grassroots Leaders

Residents of Kampung Ubi

Ladies & Gentlemen

Good evening

My family and I are pleased to join you tonight at this dinner to celebrate our
nation's 34th year of independence.

1. The past year has been a difficult time for many Singaporeans who are feeling the effects of the economic crisis. However, there are good signs. Things have begun to improve. It is our common hope that the economic situation in Asia will see strong signs of recovery this year. This will be good for everyone.
2. Despite the difficulties of the last year, we have continued to provide financial assistance to children of residents in Kampung Ubi as they continue with their educational pursuits. The CCC has awarded a total of \$53,700 in bursaries. We have also managed to improve or upgrade many facilities for the benefit of our residents. One such example is the Kampung Ubi Community Children's Library at Block 333 Ubi Ave 1, which will be completed by year's end.
3. Since the last General Elections, it has been my intention to arrange for a Meet-the-People's session at Balam Road, a new area that comes under Kampung Ubi. To make this possible, the PCF branch office at Block 35 Balam Road had to be upgraded so as to make it on par with the Main Upgrading Programme (MUP) that has transformed Balam into a beautiful estate.
4. However, I decided to spend some \$200,000 that was raised to upgrade the two PCF Education Centres. In doing so, all five PCF education centres in Kampung Ubi have been upgraded. This has allowed us to provide quality nursery and kindergarten education throughout Kampung Ubi.
5. As a consequence, it was only in May this year that we managed to complete the improvements to the PCF centre at Block 35 Balam Road. Since then, I have started with my Meet-the-People sessions every first Tuesday of the month. Residents in Balam no longer need to travel to our original centre at Block 11 Eunos Crescent to seek my assistance with their problems.
6. I am pleased to note that the MUP at Balam Road is also nearing completion. We should be able to celebrate that by October or November this year.
7. The MUP in Eunos Crescent is underway and will soon include the area around MacPherson Lane. This, together with the \$5.2 million spent by the Marine Parade Town Council on improvement projects, will allow Kampung Ubi residents to continue to enjoy living in a rich and pleasant environment.
8. We will see a further enhancement to the Constituency with the completion of the upgraded Kampung Ubi Community Centre by early next year. We can look forward to more as well as better facilities. More importantly, the management committee will look into providing a wider variety of programmes that can meet the interests of the young and old.
9. Most of you would have heard of the fire that destroyed the Eunos Crescent Market and Food Centre on the 5th of July. In the wake of the fire, I established a Task Force under the Kampung Ubi CCC to coordinate efforts to assist the affected stallholders. I am most gratified at the progress that the Task Force has made in

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the few short weeks since the fire. A temporary market has been set-up at the open space between Blocks 9 and 11 Eunos Crescent to allow stallholders to quickly resume their businesses while waiting for the HDB to construct a replacement market. As a result, residents in the area have also been able to continue to enjoy the continued convenience of having a market and hawker centre nearby.

10. Let me take this opportunity to thank the chairman and members of the Task Force, the officers from the Singapore Civil Defence Force, the Singapore Police Force, the Housing and Development Board, the Ministry of Environment and the Marine Parade Town Council, for a job well done. Without their hard work, the objectives that I have set for the task force could not have been achieved. They deserve our appreciation.

11. It is in tough times like these that our social cohesion and national resilience are tested. I am confident that the challenge of economic recovery will help our community to bond more closely. This has been a perfect example of the Singapore 21 values at work. It is the People Sector, with the building of the heart-ware, that is critical because "Singapore, our best home" slogan can only become a reality if we, the people, believe in it and work together to make it so.

12. In conclusion, I trust and hope that each of you will continue to play your part in maintaining racial and religious harmony and promoting neighbourliness in the community you live and work in. I am privileged and happy to have been your MP for the past eight years. Let us continue to work together to make Kampung Ubi a better place to live in.

13. Finally, my thanks to the Organising Committee for doing a good job in organising this event. I also wish to thank all of you for being present here tonight. I wish you good health.

Thank you.

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