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**SPEECH BY MR MOHAMAD MAIDIN BIN PACKER MOHD,
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MP FOR
MARINE PARADE GRC AT KAMPONG UBI NATIONAL DAY DINNER
2000 ON SATURDAY, 5 AUGUST 2000 AT 8.00PM AT THE OPEN SPACE
NEXT TO EUNOS MRT**

Fellow Grassroots Leaders
Residents of Kampong Ubi
Ladies and Gentlemen

My family and I are delighted to be here this evening to join you at this dinner to celebrate our nation's 35th year of Independence.

2 This year also marks the 40th Anniversary of the People's Association. The People's Association has been a backbone of grassroots organisations over the last 40 years. As it moves towards the new millennium, PA remains vibrant and passionate about the work it was commissioned to carry out 40 years ago, and which it continues to carry out today. Many of our projects would not have been possible without the support of the People's Association and the various government departments.

3 It is also a fitting occasion to recognise the contributions of 55 of our Grassroots Leaders who will be receiving their long service awards this evening for their commitment, dedication and public spiritedness over these years.

4 Singapore has emerged out of the economic crisis relatively unscathed because of our strong social cohesion and economic fundamentals. As the Government continues to make prompt and fundamental adjustments to our policies, we must stay competitive in the new knowledge-based environment and also prepare ourselves for more challenges ahead.

5 During the course of the year, we continued to provide financial assistance to assist Kampong Ubi Children to continue their educational pursuit. The Kg Ubi Citizens Consultative Committee awarded a total of 205 Scholarships, bursaries and book prizes valued at \$39,850.00 from 1 November 1999 to 30 April 2000.

6 On 28 May 2000, the CCC also donated a sum of \$188,888 to nine civic and welfare organisations through funds raised by the CCC and Mr Su Xin Quan of Poh Lian Construction through a Poh Lian Charity Golf tournament held on 29 December 1999 last year. All funds raised were donated to the welfare charitable organisations residing in the Kg Kembangan and Kg Ubi wards.

7 We have also managed to improve or upgrade many facilities for the benefit of our residents. The Main Upgrading Programme at Balam Road was completed in 1999 and the MUP in Eunos Crescent is nearing its completion by October this year. Works is also scheduled to commence on 1 November 2000 for the MacPherson Lane area which is expected to be completed in September 2003. Residents can expect to see more covered walkways, new and upgraded children playgrounds among the many public amenities over the next few years. The total project cost is about \$102 million. Kampong Ubi residents will continue to enjoy a rich and pleasant environment, thanks to the efforts of the Marine Parade Town Council.

8 Today, the residents also get to reap the fruit of labour of the Task Force that I set up under the Kampong Ubi CCC in the wake of the Eunos Crescent Market Fire in July 1999. Not only were the stallholders quickly relocated to a transit market after the fire incident so that they could resume their business, they were also accorded prompt assistance. The residents in the area have also been able to continue to enjoy marketing with little inconvenience. On 1 August 2000,

just one year after the fire incident, the stallholders have now moved into their new sprightly lit Eunos Crescent Market located just at the doorstep of the Eunos MRT Station. This new market boast of steel structure construction and pitch roof profile which is used for the structure to blend in with the surrounding buildings and induces better and effective ventilation and lighting.

9 Another enhancement to the Constituency is the completion of the upgraded Kampong Ubi Community Centre in March 2000. The 4045 square metres land area was reconstructed and upgraded at the cost of \$6.2 million. It has many facilities, including a large air-conditioned hall for community functions and many rooms for all kinds of community activities. I understand that the Management Committee will be setting up an IT Training Centre, a fitness and sports gym and a Talent Training Centre to meet the interests of our residents. Let me take this opportunity to thank all our grassroots volunteers and leaders who have worked passionately and tirelessly to bring about this new Community Centre. I am pleased to announce this evening that I will be launching the official opening of the Kg Ubi Community Centre on 1 October 2000. I hope many of you would join us then to share our pride and joy.

10 As your MP for the past nine years, I am happy to see the progress made by our residents and to the environment. I urge all of you to continue to participate actively in our community endeavours. Your contributions can help improve policy making, upgrade our living environment, strengthen our community bond and give care and support for the less fortunate. Steadily and patiently, I believe, we can do more for Kampong Ubi. Let our hearts beat together as one and I am confident that we will succeed no matter what challenges lie ahead.

11 On a closing note, my special thanks to the organising committee for doing a good job in organising this event. I also wish to thank all of you for your support this evening. May you be blessed with good health and happiness. Thank you.