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SPEECH BY MR TANG GUAN SENG, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(EDUCATION), AT THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF
TAO NAN SCHOOL ON SATURDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 1986 AT 9.30 AM

I am happy to be with you here this morning to celebrate your school's 80th Anniversary. In its 80 years of history, Tao Nan has educated thousands of young boys and girls, many of whom have done the nation proud.

The Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan is to be congratulated for its fine efforts and contributions to the cause of education in Singapore. Besides Tao Nan School, the Association is also the benefactor of four other schools in Singapore, namely Nan Chiau High, Ai Tong, Kong Hwa and Chongfu Primary Schools. Tao Nan has benefited from the sponsorship of the Association not only in terms of financial support but also in terms of the continuing build up of a strong tradition to give the School its own character and identity. It is gratifying to note that the School is developing within the national education system and the overall objectives of creating a progressive and viable nation. I wish to place on record the government's appreciation of the contributions of the Association towards education in Singapore.

Since moving to its new premises in 1982, Tao Nan School has not only gained in popularity, but has also made impressive gains in both its academic achievements and its extra curricular activities. This must be attributed to the dedication and commitment of the teachers.

Academic excellence and character building are universal educational objectives. Cultivating parental support will go a long way to helping you attain these goals. Encourage them to attend school functions and involve them in extra-curricular and co-curricula programmes so that a closer rapport can be built between schools and parents. Some schools have done well in this area. Under a programme designed to help pupils improve their reading ability, a school has requested selected parent volunteers to conduct simple reading activities during their free-time to pupils. Another school, with the support of parent volunteers, has implemented a programme to look after latch key children. I have also learned that a school has not only involved parents to help run the school library but also in gardening.

Parents place great importance in education of their children today. There is a vast resource in parental involvement in schools to be tapped. It would certainly be desirable if good projects can be implemented in more schools.

In congratulating the prize winners, I want you to know that I appreciate the consistent hard work you have put in. At the same time, I wish to remind you of the good work put in by your teachers and the support given by your parents that have enabled you to do well. You on your part can share your success with your fellow pupils by helping them in their school work as and when there is a need. Sharing with and helping others is a trait we need to develop from young and opportunities for doing so abound in a school situation. I leave this as a thought to be taken up by the school to enable pupils to internalize good moral and social values as part of the total education the school aims to provide.

It leaves me now to extend to all of you my congratulations on this, your 80th Anniversary and to wish you further success in all your future endeavours.

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