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**SPEECH BY MR WONG KAN SENG, MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS,
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF CENTURY SQUARE,
TAMPINES NEW TOWN ON SATURDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 1995 AT 5.30 PM**

Tampines has the distinction of being the first new town based on the precinct concept to promote neighbourliness and a sense of belonging. Each precinct has its own distinctive design, character and layout of buildings. For its excellence in design and quality, Tampines New Town was awarded the World Habitat Award for the Best Planned Town in the World in 1991.

Tampines now has grown into a regional centre. The completion of Century Square marks an important milestone in the development of Tampines New Town and the Tampines Regional Centre. I understand that by the end of this year, the nearby Tampines Mall will be completed. The Finance Park, which will house banks and offices, will be ready by the end of 1996. Telepark, the Telecom Centre, will be ready in early 1996. The wiring works of homes in Tampines for cable television will be completed at the end of this year. With all these developments, Tampines can be considered the most modern town in Singapore. Its residents should be happy that the Government has provided these and other facilities such as a modern library, well equipped sports complex and even a modern theatre at the Tampines East Community Club for the performing arts.

With the opening of Century Square, residents in Tampines and nearby areas will have a wider selection of shops. Century Square is a one stop Shopping Centre with entertainment, fashion and food all under one roof. With a major discount department store, a supermarket, specialty shops, cinemas and restaurants, Century Square will greatly enhance the quality of life of the residents of Tampines and other Singaporeans who shop here.

Perhaps we should sit back and reflect how all this is possible. The development of Tampines Town did not happen by luck or accident. It is the result of forward planning, efficient implementation and sound administration. The Government has kept the fundamentals right from the first day the People's Action Party (PAP) came to power in 1959. We have chosen the right people who have worked out the right systems to run the country. If cheats and liars were to run the country, Tampines and Singapore would not be what they are today.

We must never be complacent. We must continue to elect or select the best and the brightest to be in charge so that we will always have a Government with the ability and foresight to keep improving the quality of life for Singaporeans and implement programmes, such as upgrading of old Housing and Development Board (HDB) flats, for their benefit. Even this new Tampines Town will be upgraded when it is necessary to do so in the future.

I am pleased to note that as part of Century Square's official opening, the organisers are donating S\$50,000 to the Singapore Children's Society. This will help the Society to provide more services to needy children.

I now declare Century Square officially open.

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