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The logo features the word "press" in a bold, sans-serif font with a circular emblem containing the letters "IC" to its left. Below "press" is the word "release" in a large, outlined, sans-serif font.

SINGAPORE METRICATION BOARD
1, Anson Road, Singapore, 2. Tel:79595

Date: 30.6.76 Ref No. PR/55/76

TEXT OF SPEECH BY MR BAEY LIAN PECK, CHAIRMAN, METRICATION BOARD,
AT THE FINALS OF THE INTERSCHOOL METRIC DRAMA COMPETITION
(ENGLISH SECTION) ON 3RD JULY 1976

Dr Lee Chiaw Meng, Minister for Science and Technology, honourable
Members of Parliament, Mr Chan Kai Yau, Director of Education,
distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is indeed a privilege for me to welcome you to the first night of
the finals of the Interschool Metric Drama Competition. A privilege
because although the Drama Competition is organised by the Metrication
Board, it has come to fruition with the invaluable help of the Ministry
of Education, Radio and Television Singapore, the Prime Minister's
Office and the People's Association.

As you can see, far from flagging, we are intensifying our efforts to
bring to you, the public, the metric system with all its inherent
benefits in every possible way.

On the drawing boards, we have an Interschool SI Competition scheduled
for September 1976, a sporting event to teach you the metric units called
Telemetric 1977 scheduled for March 1977, and a series of metric
television shows for the family from November 1976 to March 1977.

For more than five years, the Metrication Board has sought to introduce
metrication "painlessly". But the time is near and we can read the
writing on the wall; soon it will be time to make a definite effort to
switch over.

Meanwhile, metric education campaigns will continue. The general public
will remain our major target although much has been achieved in this
sector in the past.

The Metrication Board has also a technical wing, and here we can speak of positive inroads.

The Planning Department reports that as at December 1975, 97 percent of the total building plans submitted used metric units. The Board's Building and Construction Industry Working Committee is studying dimensional co-ordination in building, and in conjunction with the Building Control Division is currently drafting the Building Regulations. The Housing and Development Board, the biggest single builder in the Republic is spearheading the programme of dimensional co-ordination in buildings with their prototype new generation flats. To date, six blocks of these new flats designed entirely in metric dimensions have been completed and occupied in Ang Mo Kio New Town.

More than 67 percent of the Electrical and Electronic Industry in the manufacturing sector have metricated. Metric cables are now in abundance and most government departments and statutory boards are specifying these for their electrical installations. A Board's survey on the availability of metric electrical accessories has shown that there are about 190 electrical retail firms carrying about 75 percent of their stocks in metric dimensions. To complement this effort, a set of metric standards for electrical accessories is being drawn up by the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research.

It is estimated that about 60 percent of the manufacturers in the engineering, electrical and packaging sectors are capable of metric production, while in the engineering workshops sector, 34 percent have already converted to the metric system. The remaining percentage have the necessary metric capability and will no doubt convert in the near future. The shipbuilding and shiprepairing industry are now in the process of conversion to meet increasing demands for metric-designed ships. Small diameter metric steel pipes, steel sections, industrial fasteners and metric tools are now available in the market.

In the packaging industry, more than 70 percent of the critical items are now available in standard metric sizes; these include bread, sugar, wheat flour, rice, fresh milk and other essential non-food commodities such as petrol and petroleum products. For the year 1976, we will turn our attention to the metric standardisation and rationalisation of other remaining items.

In the schools, the educational syllabus has in a significant way contributed to our younger citizens' awareness. The Ministry of Education in December 1971 issued a directive setting out the programmes for the phasing out of imperial units and the introduction of metric units into the various subjects of the school curriculum. The contents of Science and Mathematics are entirely in SI units. The switchover to metric in the schools' technical workshops has been completed and all school examinations for technical subjects are being set in metric units.

It will surprise many to discover just how far into metrication we have gone, but this is not enough.

As Chairman of the Metrication Board, let me assure you that we will not rest but continue to press on with our mandate to bring metrication to Singapore since it is vital and inevitable.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Dr Lee Chiaw Meng, Minister for Science and Technology, all our guests, principals, teachers, student participants, and our sponsor, Times Distributors Sdn Bhd, for bringing to successful conclusion the Interschool Metric Drama Competition.

(Embargo: To be released only after 7.30 pm, 3rd July 1976)