

SPEECH BY MR JEK YEUN THONG, MINISTER
FOR CULTURE, AT THE METRICATION & YOU
EXHIBITION, QUEENSTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ON TUESDAY 10 JUN 75 AT 8.00 PM

The metric system is here to stay regardless one likes it or not. Singapore, like most of the progressive countries of the world, is switching over to metric because of the advantages the system offers. First, the system is brief; next it is easier to use. Economically for Singapore, the system is important for our exports and it increases our efficiency.

It is, therefore, only a matter of time before the Imperial and local units of weights and measures are discarded and declared illegal. Before that time arrives, it is to everyone's interest to familiarise themselves with the metric system, and eventually to be so adept at it that it becomes natural to their thinking processes like breathing in and breathing out.

In introducing Metrication to Singapore, the Government has decided to implement it in slow and gradual stages so as not to create confusion among the people. It also believes in giving the widest publicity possible in the change-over so that the unscrupulous would be denied the opportunity to cheat the uninitiated and exploit the situation for their benefit. This transition period before full implementation of the metric system

gives everyone time to re-learn and re-think in metric and to get accustomed to it when making their purchases.

It was for this reason, among others, that the Metrication Board was set up. One of its functions is to educate and to help the public in the gradual transition from the old system to the metric way. This "Metrication & You" Exhibition organised jointly by the Metrication Board and the Management Committee of the Queenstown Community Centre is held for just such a purpose. There are various visual aids and illustrations in the Exhibition to help you think metric. Families in Queenstown should not miss this opportunity of visiting the Exhibition. If they want a profitable and an informative way of spending their time, a visit to this Exhibition is a good way of doing it. All members of the family can learn what they need to know about the metric system at this Exhibition in preparation for the day when it will be a part of our everyday life.

On this note, I have pleasure in declaring this Exhibition open.