

SPEECH BY MR HOH SUI SEN, MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND MP FOR HAVELOCK  
AT THE LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE OF THE OUTRAM SECONDARY SCHOOL  
SWIMMING POOL ON SUNDAY, 12 DECEMBER 1976 AT 8.40 AM

I am very pleased to be here today to lay the foundation stone for the half Olympic size swimming pool which is to be built for Outram Secondary School.

For some time now, I have been following the progress of the fund raising efforts of the School Advisory Committee under its Chairman, Mr David Chew. It seemed to be a very hotly contested race between on the one hand, the flow of funds collected from public spirited donors and on the other, the effects of inflation, which raised the cost of the swimming pool from its original estimate of \$150,000 to the present requirement of \$600,000 today. I am glad that the race has now definitely been won by the School Advisory Committee, and those for whom they worked. Primarily, these would be the pupils of the Outram Secondary School.

The victors will, however, also include others, by arrangement with Outram Secondary School. The pupils of other schools in Havelock constituency, and the youth of the Sports Association and other organisations of the Havelock Community Centre will also be allowed the use of the pool. This arrangement is a very generous gesture on the part of Outram Secondary School and its School Advisory Committee. It is, however, an eminently sensible one and deserves to be freely emulated by the owners of similar facilities so that the maximum possible use and benefit can be obtained from them.

But I am anticipating. It will still take some 8 months before we can expect swimming to begin in the pool. In the meantime, I would like to congratulate everyone concerned for bringing the idea of the pool to its present reality, first of all, Mr David Chew and his School Advisory Committee, the Principal of the School and the Education Ministry, the Architect who gave his services without charge, and not least, the many generous donors and well-wishers. These include the Outram School pupils and Staff who have also contributed by their participation in fund raising projects such as walkatons, fun fairs, sales, shows, concerts and in many other ways.

And now, I look forward to performing the pleasant duty of laying the foundation stone for the swimming pool.