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SPEECH BY DR WAN SOON BEE, MINISTER OF STATE
(PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE), AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF
NAN HUA SECONDARY SCHOOL AT CLEMENTI AVENUE 1
ON FRIDAY, 5 JULY 1985 AT 6.00 PM

I am very glad to be here this evening for the official opening of Nan Hua Secondary School's new building. For Nan Hua Secondary School, this new building marks the turning point in the school's history. The school, which was founded in 1917 as a Chinese-medium school for girls, has now been re-sited in a new town and has opened its doors to boys. With the shift of the medium of instruction to English Language, the school is also taking in pupils of different ethnic groups.

Over the years, Nan Hua Secondary School has built up its culture and traditions. It has always been highly regarded among the Chinese community. It has nurtured thousands of students and made a significant and invaluable contribution to the country's education system. The school crest, the school flag, the school song and the school uniform which reflect the school's aspirations are well known to many of us. They provide a sense of identity to all members of the school. Pupils in Nan Hua Secondary School are always proud to be associated with the school. Because of their distinct symbols, pupils of Nan Hua Secondary School can be easily differentiated from the pupils of other schools.

The visible symbols such as the school crest and the school flag are indeed the tangible aspect of the school's characteristics. But there are other aspects of the school culture that make Nan Hua Secondary School distinctly

different from other schools. The school's philosophy, the school policy and school motto are some of the written ideals that provide direction for the members to work towards achieving the school's goals. Nan Hua's goal to develop those who pass through its portals into educated and cultured persons with high moral values is indeed praiseworthy. The School Motto "Propriety, Righteousness, Integrity, Modesty, Loyalty, Filial Piety, Benevolence and Love" aptly summarises the essence of the oriental moral values.

The school programmes and activities are designed to fulfil the school philosophy and objectives. They aim at not only to help pupils to achieve academic excellence but also to assist them in their character development. Parents have as much responsibility as the staff and pupils of the school to make an effort to help the school to achieve the desired goals. The school needs to involve parents in the school's activities, and participation of parents and past students should become part of the school culture too. Parents should take a keen interest in the school programmes and activities by attending school functions such as Speech Day, Sports Meet and other functions to which parents are invited. They could also show greater concern for their children's work and cooperate with the school to develop the pupils. The past students could also be involved in the school activities by giving the school moral and financial support as well as providing services voluntarily in the field of their expertise. The participation, involvement and contribution of parents and past students will be invaluable to the progress of the school.

The school culture also depends very much on the behavioural outcomes of the students. The well-known schools are always associated with the achievement of the present as well as the past students in the academic field and in the field of extra-curricular activities.

Nan Hua Secondary School is on the threshold of re-modelling its school culture in response to new demands. With the efforts of the members of School Management Committee, the Principal and a team of dedicated staff and pupils, I am sure a new school culture will evolve in the years to come.

On this note, I take great pleasure in declaring Nan Hua Secondary School officially open. May I wish the school every success in its endeavours.

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