

NOTE: NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST UNTIL 1030 HOURS ON SUNDAY, 5TH MAY, 1968

SPEECH OF MR. YONG NYUK LIN, MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS, M.P. FOR GEYLANG WEST, AT THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY OF THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING OF THE NANYANG TUN CHEOW SCHOOL (南洋丹戎巴葛學校), LORONG 17, GEYLANG, ON SUNDAY, 5TH MAY, 1968 AT 1030 HRS.

Make Every Effort To Be Bi-Lingual

In my capacity as Member of Parliament for Geylang West, I am honoured to be given the privilege of performing the laying of the foundation stone ceremony for the new building of the Nanyang Tun Cheow School.

As this school was established as long ago as 1922 or 46 years ago, it can truly be said that this is one of the oldest schools in Geylang. I am given to understand that the school started with only 30 pupils; now, it has an enrolment of nearly 600. This school has therefore made much progress over the years and credit must go to the members of the Leong Khay Huay Kuan (龍溪會館), Members of the School Management Committees, Principals and staff of the school for their great dedication and devotion towards the cause of education for the benefit of our children living in Geylang.

It was only two years ago that the school authorities started in earnest on a school building fund campaign and I had the privilege of attending one concert at the National Theatre, which alone was responsible for collecting the large sum of \$17,000. I am very glad to hear from the Chairman that our Ministry of Education is making a generous grant of \$30,000 towards the school building fund. Given the able leadership of the Chairman, Mr. Lim Kay Kok (林繼國) and Principal, Mr. Lee Su Chow (李思國) I am confident that the school building fund will be more than adequate to complete

not only the building, but also to cover the cost of furniture and equipment as well.

As we are living in a multi-racial society and Singapore is situated at the crossroads of the world and therefore international in its outlook, I would like to emphasise the importance of not only studying but also using more than just one language in schools, that is, we must pay great attention to the study of the second language in our schools and all of us must make every effort to be at least bi-lingual, so that when our students leave school to seek a living in society, they will not be handicapped and isolated because of language difficulties but will be able to communicate and understand their fellow citizens, who may come from different language streams but who, in turn, are going to be bi-lingual. It is only when every one understands each other that we can become more united and strong, to build up a more progressive and prosperous Singapore for our children.

In conclusion, may I congratulate the Leong Khay Huan Kuan and the School Management Committee, Principal, Staff and parents for their good work in the past and to express my grateful thanks to all those who have contributed, in money or in work, towards this worthwhile project and to wish the school staff and pupils every success in the years ahead.
