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TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,
MR. LIM KIM SAI, AT THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE FOOCHOW ASSOCIATION AND THE
INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICE BEARERS AT 107-A, SOPHIA
ROAD, ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1970, AT 7.45 P.M.

The Singapore Fochow Association has been in existence for more than half a century. An association of such long standing which has been able to keep up with the times is undoubtedly the result of the efforts of its leaders.

One of the characteristics of our local associations is the interest of their members in the welfare of the community and their devotion to social work. Particularly worthy of mention in the educational history of Singapore are the contributions of these associations towards the promotion of education. By establishing schools with financial support these associations have helped to some extent in the advancement of education in Singapore. One good example is the Fochow Association's establishment of San Shan School, which has been nurturing a number of talents for over twenty years.

The Government has established many schools over the last 10 years, so that sufficient places are available for all children of primary-school age. Thus, every child of the right age is given an opportunity for education. In such a situation, local associations have in recent years, turned their attention from the establishment of schools to the provision of scholarships and bursaries. It is encouraging to note that the Fochow Association has similarly shouldered part of this responsibility. Although the scholarships or bursaries are generally awarded by the association to children of their clansmen, ultimately, it is the community as a whole which stands to gain. With the greater number of associations providing such awards, more people throughout the community will benefit. We believe that the task of administering these awards will make steady progress.

In a small country like Singapore, it is necessary to make optimum use of our human resources. In order to develop a wealth of these resources, we must set aside a part - or even a large part - of our hard-won earnings for the sound education of future generation. In this respect, if local associations can contribute their share, the Government, too, will not fail to meet this responsibility.

All these years, the Government has been actively discharging its responsibility in education. A clear example is the case of aid for Nanyang University. I would like to take the opportunity at this point to mention2/-

to mention fairly recent decisions relating to financial contributions to Nanyang University. Apart from subsidizing two-thirds of the University's annually recurrent expenditure, the Government has also approved substantial contributions towards a number of Nanyang's development projects. For example, \$700,000 has been set aside for the building of a sports complex, and only this year, a further sum of \$845,000 was earmarked for re-equipping the science laboratories and up-grading the teaching facilities. All these have been incorporated in the Government's financial assistance programme.

It is our hope that through unstinting effort and careful planning, every aspect of our educational system will keep pace with the task of nation-building. As education is a never-ending process, we must strive to better ourselves through relentless and unceasing effort.

The Singapore Foochow Association and the other Foochow Associations have held their Fourth Annual Conference of the Federation of Foochow Associations of Singapore and Malaysia. After two days of deliberations on the future development of the Federation and community service, all are now well prepared for the tasks ahead. With the newly-elected office-bearers providing a link with the leadership of the past, I am sure that the Federation will continue to make valuable contributions to the community. I wish you every success in your endeavours.

NOVEMBER 29, 1970.

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