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Speech by Mr. Lim Guan Hoo, Political Secretary to the Minister for Communications, at the P.S.A. Annual Long Service Presentation 1972 on Wednesday, 26th July, 1972 at 5 p.m. at the Port of Authority Recreation Club, Bukit Chermín

Chairman and friends, it gives me great pleasure to be here this afternoon to present certificates and tokens of appreciation to 165 of you who are leaving the Port on retirement after 20 or more years of loyal and faithful service.

I am told that together, you have served the Port for a total of 3968 years. This is indeed an achievement the Port can justly be proud of as it takes people with loyalty, dedication and devotion to go through such a long period of service in an organisation. Going through the list, I find that 13 of you have served the Port for 30 years and more with Inche Sepet b. Sarto of the Port Master's Department topping the list with 41 years and 4 months' service as a Wharfinger.

A great deal of changes have taken place since you joined the Port many years ago and the Port has grown to become the 4th busiest in the world. Your efforts and loyal service have contributed in no small way to the success of the Port and the reputation it carries. The Port therefore owes you all a profound gratitude. It is my sincere hope that your colleagues and other workers in the Port will emulate and follow your shining example of loyalty and dedication.

In order to keep ahead, the Port must spare no efforts to continually improve its facilities and offer more efficient service to the Port users at competitive costs. We must improve our techniques and be prepared to accept change in order to progress. A conscious effort must be made to develop the human resources so that the Port will have a reservoir of trained and capable men to keep abreast with the technological changes not only in the methods of cargo handling but also in the techniques of modern port management.

To develop the human resources at the Port, a comprehensive system of training is necessary for all levels and grades of workers. Eventually, it is hoped that, through training, the Port will produce a new generation of workers who are trained, skilled and properly motivated. The P.S.A. is aware of this need and since 1970, has set up a Training Department to arrange and conduct training courses for all grades of staff to upgrade the skills of the Port workers with a view not only to increase their productivity but also to allow them to earn more.

Although the P.S.A. had a Training Section since 1964, it only catered for operational training which was conducted mainly on ad hoc basis. In order to cover the complete spectrum of operational, technical, supervisory and management training, the PSA in early 1971 converted at considerable cost, an old building at Keppel Hill into a Central Training School. To augment the training facilities at this School, a Training College has been set up at Pulau Brani for residential and management training, besides a Technical Training Centre, Fire Fighting Training School and a Police Training School. It is hoped that this complex will eventually become an Institute of Port Studies for this region.

With these plans well in hand, I am confident that in future, the P.S.A. would be able to develop to the full its human resources to meet the challenges ahead.

In conclusion, I would like to say how much the Port appreciates your long and dedicated service which has contributed to a large extent in making our Port the fourth busiest Port in the world and I wish you all a happy retirement which you so fully deserve.