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SPEECH BY MR CH'NG JIT KOON, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE
PRIME MINISTER AT THE 18TH ANNUAL SPEECH AND PRIZE-GIVING DAY OF
TANGLIN TECHNICAL SCHOOL ON 28 AUGUST 1982 AT 10.00 AM

I am pleased to have been invited to address you at your 13th Annual Speech and Prize-Giving Day. This is a big day in your school calendar and I can see that you have put in lots of effort to make it a memorable day.

The Speech and Prize-Giving Day is an appropriate occasion to take stock of the events carried out and appraise their effectiveness in the wider context of the total school programme and project future directions which the school intends to take in order that it can become even more effective in meeting the needs of the pupils.

I would, therefore, like to share with you a few thoughts on school effectiveness and the role of the school community in bringing about this.

We all recognise that there are differences in physical as well as in human resources among schools in Singapore. The effectiveness of a school depends to some extent on the proper use of the school's physical resources. However, the human resource is the more critical factor. Some schools are more successful than others in implementing their instructional programme, and thus in achieving their objectives. Such success can invariably be traced back to good and caring principals and teachers, who give of their time and of themselves generously in the interests and welfare of their pupils.

The enthusiastic involvement and active participation of the pupils in the school programme are some characteristics of effective schools. The pupils assume the responsibility of cooperating with the

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teachers to work towards achieving the school objectives. They have a strong sense of commitment and loyalty to the school, and strive to uphold its good image. Both the teachers and the pupils set high standards for themselves and the school community is a closely knit one.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to have a positive attitude towards learning and the school. Learning is part and parcel of living. Take full advantage of all the school activities which are organised for you, for these are directed towards achieving the overall development of the pupils. Any organised school activity that you participate in has the implicit objective of helping you develop both personally and socially while at the same time the activity may also contribute to the school community as a whole.

You should always look for ways and means by which you can make your contribution to the school. Your years in school should not be as a one-way street; while pupils should be given all assistance to help them realise their ambitions, relative to their abilities, the pupils too should give of themselves and their service in the development of the school as a whole. The spirit of care and concern for classmates and schoolmates is a shining beacon in any effective school. Sharing ideas and experience is one way of fostering such a spirit. Even a little advice can go a long way towards improving the school environment. Influencing friends to create a conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning is a positive contribution that you can make. Some of you are making a direct contribution by being prefects or by taking on roles of responsibility in other school organisations. In your own way, either by helping to maintain discipline or by helping to achieve your unit objectives, by doing your best, you are contributing to the overall well-being of the school community. You are therefore doing your part in building up a good name and a good image for your school. Hopefully, doing your best for your school will serve as good training for doing your best for your nation in later life. Do not be satisfied with a half-hearted or luke-warm performance. Do your best at all times because consistency and reliability are also the hall-marks of excellence. The ability to press on in spite of difficulties and set-backs is a crucial ingredient that often makes the difference between success and failure.

It is also important to note that a school cannot implement its school programmes successfully if there is no effective communication. Pupils need to interact and interrelate with their fellow-pupils, their teachers and their principal in an atmosphere of trust. An effective school, therefore, is also characterised by the great pains it takes to build mutually supportive relationships within the school through a good pupil welfare programme.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate all the prize-winners and encourage the others who have not won prizes or awards to continue to do their best at all times. I also wish the school continued success in all its endeavours.