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SPEECH BY MR CH'NG JIT KOON, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
TO THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF
THE TIONG BAHRU CONSTITUENCY'S YOUTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AT THE TIONG BAHRU COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON SATURDAY, 20 AUGUST 1983 AT 8.00 PM

I am pleased to be here this evening to officiate at the Installation Ceremony of Tiong Bahru Constituency Youth Executive Committee (YEC) and to give away prizes to the winners of the Computer Programming Skills Competition organised by the Tiong Bahru Community Centre Computer Club.

The Tiong Bahru Community Centre Youth Group was established in June 1972. It was originally known as Tiong Bahru Community Centre Youth Sub Committee. Over the years, the group has progressed and expanded in terms of membership and activities organised. This would not have been possible without the able and dedicated leadership of the YECs. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to commend members of the past YECs for their valuable services. I am confident that the new YEC members will emulate their good work and strive for greater achievement with the full support of the youth group members.

Singapore has achieved political stability and economic progress since its independence because we have able and dedicated leaders in every field and at every level. To keep Singapore going, we need many more men and women of high calibre not only to take over the tasks from

the retiring leaders but also to face new challenges ahead. The government must, therefore, create ample opportunities to allow the best in our population to serve and to develop to their fullest potential.

In the field of community development, the CCC, CCMC, WSC and YEC played a useful role in grassroots leadership development in the past. However, in view of the shift in population to public housing estates, the government has established RCs to accelerate the community development process in HDB estates. This gives us another useful avenue to identify and develop the indigenous leaders at grassroots levels. Over a short period of five years since their inception, the RCs have built up a large pool of about 4,000 members in 69 constituencies. In addition, a large number of volunteers are also actively serving or helping in many sub-committees and working groups set up by the RCs to implement various projects and activities.

The fundamental objective of the RCs is to promote neighbourliness and community cohesiveness among residents in HDB estates. In order to reach out to more residents and to provide a wider scope for leadership training, the RCs must embark on a wide range of projects and activities and assume a greater role in nation-building. The RC members must also develop a broader vision and a strong sense of national identity.

I am glad to observe that the RCs in Singapore have recently organised the first National RC Conference to enable members to discuss various major issues facing Singapore. They have also responded favourably to the call for turning the RC movement into a national movement in recognition of the role they must play in nation-building. Every encouragement and support should be given

to them to move on in this direction. It is, therefore, a positive step taken by the People's Association to open up more of their community centres and other facilities to the RCs. This will not only help RCs greatly in fulfilling their increasing role but also enable them to work closely with the CCMC, WSC and YEC for the benefit of the community.

Finally, I wish to congratulate the prize winners of the Computer Programming Skills Competition and I hope you will enjoy the cultural show presented by the Tiong Bahru National Day Celebration Working Committee this evening.

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