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SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,
MR. CHEW SWEE KEE, AT THE OPENING OF
THE MARIS STELLA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL.
HOLLAND ROAD ON MARCH 1ST, 1958.

Thank you for asking me to come and officially open this vocational school. I am particularly happy to be here this afternoon because the efforts of those who have made this school possible are helping Singapore to solve one of its most urgent problems. This problem is one of providing suitable education for different types of individuals.

We all realise that not every one can make the grade for secondary education and even among those who can make the grade only a limited number will benefit from it. Therefore the learning of a trade or vocation is the answer. Also there are those who, through circumstances beyond their control, do not get the chance of a secondary education. Here again the answer is to learn a trade or vocation.

It is from this angle that I have valued the usefulness of this school and praised the efforts of those who have generously made this school possible. More vocational schools is certainly a step in the right direction, and I am convinced that this school deserves all the help from people who have the welfare of Singapore at heart.

The various churches in Singapore have a distinguished record of public service in the field of education and this vocational school is another example of distinguished service of the church to the community. More important still are those members of the church who give selfless service in the name of God for the benefit of mankind. May God bless those who give such service. Finally I want to say once again how happy I am to be here this afternoon to open this new institution which stands out as a fine example of cooperation between the church and the public-spirited citizens of Singapore. Therefore, in opening this institution, I wish those people connected with it good luck and prosperity, and the institution success and smooth working.

March 1, 1958.

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