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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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**SPEECH BY MR HO KAH LEONG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION, ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF TRANS-ISLAND BUS SERVICE  
(PTE) LTD HEAD OFFICE/DEPOT AND THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE COMPANY AT NO.6 ANG MO KIO ST 62  
ON THURSDAY 3 APRIL 1986 AT 10.30 AM**

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I am pleased to be here this morning to officiate at the opening of the head office and depot of the Trans-Island Bus Services (Pte) Ltd (TIBS) and to join you in celebrating the third anniversary of your company.

As you are all aware, we have limited land in Singapore. Because of this it is the government's objective to encourage more people to travel by public transport, that is, buses and in the near future, the MRT, because they can carry more people than private cars. However, for public transport to be an attractive mode of transportation, we must ensure that bus companies provide efficient and reliable bus service at reasonable cost.

It is for this reason that TIBS was formed as the second bus company three years ago. Our intention was to have two well-managed bus companies competing to enhance the performance and efficiency of the other and in the process help bring about a better level of service to the general public.

TIBS has come a long way since it was established. Starting with two bus services initially TIBS now has a fleet of 310 buses serving 14 trunk and four feeder routes in the Woodlands-Sembawang corridor. Credit must be given to the staff and management of TIBS for their contribution to our public transportation system.

Today's bus commuters expect more of bus services. They do not want to spend too much time waiting for or travelling on buses; they do not want to ride on old uncomfortable buses that break down regularly.

Bus companies must constantly seek to meet changes in transport demands. I would like to encourage the bus companies to have greater dialogue with the Members of Parliament and the community leaders of the areas that they are serving with a view to improving bus services.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about the MRT. In about two years' time, our public transportation system will be transformed with the opening of the first section of the MRT system from Yio Chu Kang to Clementi. To avoid wasteful duplication of resources which can only mean unnecessary additional costs for the public, the bus and MRT systems should be integrated. How this is to be done requires in-depth studies. I am pleased to note that the bus companies and the MRTC with the help of consultants are now studying this matter, all with a common objective of seeking ways to improve the public transportation system.

On this note, I have great pleasure to declare TIBS head office and depot open and wish it all the best in its endeavours.

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