

Singapore Government

PRESS RELEASE

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**SPEECH BY MR HO KAH LEONG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION), AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF
KINGNAN PRIMARY SCHOOL AT JURONG WEST ST 91
ON FRIDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 1989 AT 6.00 PM**

Kingnan Primary School has come a long way since its humble beginning as a little village school fifty-seven years ago. It was in 1932, a group of community leaders in Hong Kah village decided to provide education for the children in the village. Their perseverance and commitment resulted in the setting up of Sin Nan Public School which had only one class of 10 pupils. I am glad that five-and-a-half decades later the school is relocated in this ultra-modern building.

There was a time when the school faced difficulties in rebuilding its dilapidated premises. However, with determination and a great sense of devotion to educating the young, the public spirited leaders succeeded in their mission to expand and develop the school. In 1957, Sin Nan Public School became a government-aided school and, in 1988, a government school. Indeed the school has grown and many of its pupils are today contributing significantly to the society.

A school is a place where the young are trained to face challenges and prepared for the adult world. The road to a successful future, whether it is for an individual, a group, a school, a people or nation, is a long and arduous one. The key to success is the will and the determination to sustain our maximum effort throughout the journey. It is

like running a long distance race. Only those who are disciplined and well trained, and have the stamina will complete the race. And that is why young Singaporeans must constantly be reminded of the need to sacrifice short term comforts for longer term benefits.

In other words, we must have the will to strive for success. We must put in our best efforts so that our vision of the future will come into reality. Therein lies the challenge for all young Singaporeans as they step out of school and join their fellow citizens in the society. I am confident that you will live up to your school motto "For Country and For School".

My association with Xingnan School goes back a long way and I would urge all pupils to imbibe the long established values and traditions of Xingnan - perseverance, diligence, loyalty, respectfulness and thrift. On that note, I like to congratulate you on this auspicious occasion and officially declare Xingnan Primary School open.

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