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SPEECH BY MR LIM CHEE ONN, MP FOR BUKIT MERAH AT THE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS OF ALEXANDRA ESTATE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND CRESCENT GIRLS' SCHOOL ON MONDAY 8 AUGUST 1977 AT 0830 HOURS

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It gives me great pleasure to accept your invitation to share in your National Day Celebrations here today. While we gather together to celebrate this joyous occasion, it is appropriate to remind ourselves of our task of nation building.

Our ability to undertake this task will be much stronger if we take a realistic and clear-headed view of our future.

Singapore's future as a nation can be bright or can be other wise depending on how we respond to the difficulties and the opportunities that we encounter. Our future is determined to a large extent by the contributions and sacrifices made by the people of Singapore towards the well-being of our nation.

Half of this future lies in your hands, the younger citizens of Singapore, students in schools and in the various institutions of higher learning and vocational training, and the younger members of our labour force. Your attitude to work, be it in the classrooms or on the shopfloors, will determine whether we shall succeed as we strive for continued progress and prosperity.

Teachers and instructors in schools, institutions and factories can impart knowledge, skills and general tools of the trade. In some instances, they can try to inculcate a sense of purpose in their pupils. However, the final decision as to how much a person wants to contribute towards nation building is a decision that each individual has to make for himself.

Each one of you will have to decide what your role will be, what responsibilities you bear towards your fellow citizens and what contributions you are able and willing to make towards the well-being of our country. It is only when all the co-owners of our society give of their best for the common good that the continued progress and prosperity of our nation is assured.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to exhort you to give of your best always in whatever task you have to undertake, and be ever mindful of your role and responsibilities as children to your parents, as students to your teachers and principals, and as citizens to your state and country.

Finally I hope this will be a happy and memorable National Day celebration for all of you so that you go away with a feeling of satisfaction and a sense of pride in the nation you are helping to build.