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**SPEECH BY MR LIM HNG KIANG,
MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF BRICKWORKS TOWN COUNCIL
AT HYATT REGENCY ON SATURDAY, 13 JULY 1996 AT 7.30 PM**

I am happy to be here tonight to join you at this annual dinner of the Brickworks Town Council.

It has been another fruitful year for the Town Council. It has spent more than \$15 million to bring about many improvement projects for the residents. Through your hard work and efforts, you have enhanced the living environment of residents in the Brickworks constituency. Residents now enjoy a beautiful landscaped environment and a range of amenities such as parks with jogging tracks, covered walkways, pavilions, modern children's playground, and residents' and senior citizens' corners.

Your Town Council has also done an excellent job in keeping the estates running efficiently. New lifts were installed. New water pumps were put in place. Roofing and other repair works were completed in many blocks. These may be routine maintenance works, but they are important enough to make or break any Town Council. These are things that affect the daily lives of residents. If lifts are jammed, roofs are leaking, and tap water is not flowing smoothly, the rating of your Town Council will certainly drop.

That is why you need competent leaders and a capable team of people to run the Town Council. This will not only ensure high standards of maintenance for your estates, but also continuous improvements in the quality of life for the residents. Having large funds alone will not ensure good results for residents. You need competent leaders - people who have financial prudence, far-sightedness, planning and organisational abilities, project management skills, and innovative minds. A leader must also be able to rally the support of residents and grassroots leaders to implement projects successfully.

I am happy to say that you have a strong Group Representatives Constituency (GRC) team - Dr Ahmad Mattar, Mr Chay Wai Chuen, Mr Bernard Chen and Dr Wan Soon Bee. They are well supported by a capable team of Town Councillors. Together, they have been able to introduce new and innovative ideas to continually improve the quality of life for the residents.

This year, your Town Council is going to install a special water pressure panel in all the high-rise blocks. This will enable residents in the top two floors to receive proper water supply throughout the day. Your Town Council will also install an energy-saving lift as a pilot project to reduce power consumption. If successful, all old lifts will be replaced with this new facility. This will bring about substantial savings, which could be used for more improvement projects for residents. This clearly reflects what I have said earlier about leadership and competence.

Recently, I have mentioned that an Member of Parliament (MP) is also an asset builder who can enhance the value of your home. Your MPs are certainly effective asset builders, as reflected by the vast improvements that they have brought to your estates. The upgrading programme has transformed West

Coast Court into a beautiful precinct. Four other precincts have come under the Main Upgrading Programme, and five others under the Interim Upgrading Programme. More precincts will be included.

Ladies and gentlemen, there are other big plans for your estates. Tonight, I share with you a piece of good news. The Ministry of National Development has completed the Development Guide Plan, or DGP for the Clementi Planning Area. This 940-hectare area includes many of the estates managed by the Brickworks Town Council.

The vision of the DGP is to transform the entire area into a thriving residential community with river-front housing close to our tertiary educational institutions. Singaporeans can look forward to a variety of housing types.

Residents will enjoy more greenery and parks. The existing park connector along Sungei Ulu Pandan will be extended along the river to the Pandan Reservoir and the West Coast Park.

In short, the DGP will transform your estates into higher quality and more vibrant estates comparable with new estates.

All these exciting plans will come into fruition if you continue to support a high-calibre team to take charge of your Town Council and run your estates.

On this note, I wish everyone here a pleasant evening.

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