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PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR LEE KHOON CHOY, SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE (PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE) AND MP FOR BRADDELL HEIGHTS CONSTITUENCY AT THE LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY OF THE NEW BRADDELL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 11 JANUARY, 1983 AT 1.30 P.M.

When I first came to Braddell Heights in 1976, I noticed that there was not one single new generation centre that can cater adequately to the people. The biggest one in Bartley Road has poor facilities, and even its basketball court is undulating. I decided that we must have a proper community centre for Braddell Heights Constituency so that the people can enjoy better amenities and facilities during their leisure hours. So we formed a fund raising committee and started to collect contributions. So far we have been very fortunate in that we did not find much difficulty in collecting funds.

The estimated cost of the project will be over \$3 million. The Government grant is about \$2.3 million and the community share is about \$750,000.00. It is estimated that the project will be completed by the middle of 1984.

The new Braddell Heights Community Centre apart from the normal facilities or kindergarten classes, a stage for concerts, music rooms, health fitness, homecraft, squash courts, basketball courts and sepak takraw courts and children playgrounds, will specialise in the teaching of languages and pottery making. We will be equipped with the most modern

language laboratory and will employ teachers of various western and eastern languages to teach anyone who is interested to study them. These courses are not confined to the Braddell Heights constituents. In other words, language learning will be a cluster concept to cater for the constituencies around Braddell Heights.

We hope that those interested in pottery making will also make good use of the facilities we will be providing at the centre. In this field, we will also seek the knowhow from pottery companies or schools so that people will take up pottery as a hobby.

Today we lay the foundation stone and we hope that by next year, a new community centre worthy of our people will spring from this site.

In 1983, 13 new community centres are under construction and will be ready some time this year. The total cost is \$32 million. This year, we have another 12 new community centres planned to start work, including this Braddell Heights Community Centre. The estimated cost of these 12 community centres is \$36 million. So by the middle of 1984, Singapore will have 25 new community centres to cater for the people of various constituencies.
