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**SPEECH BY MR LIM KIM SAN, MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CAIRNHILL, AT THE CAIRNHILL 15TH
NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION DINNER AT CAIRNHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 1980 AT 7.30 PM**

Welcome to the 15th National Day celebration of Cairnhill Constituency. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for generously supporting the Cairnhill Community Centre Building Fund. As you all know, we are building a new community centre at the junction of Clemenceau Avenue and Anthony Road. It is estimated to cost \$3 million, more than half of which will be paid by the government. We have to raise about \$1 million.

Letters of appeal for funds have been sent out and the response has been overwhelming. We have set a target of \$1.2 million and indications are that we can achieve the target. Contributors from every walk of life have sent in donations ranging from \$20/-, \$30/- to as much as \$100,000/- by cheques, postal orders or cash. Many contributors have even taken the trouble to go personally to the Community Centre to hand in their contributions and also to wish us every success. The response is most encouraging for it shows the existence of strong community spirit which augurs well for the future of Singapore.

During the last 20 years, especially during the last 15 years, we have made great material progress. Some of you may remember that when the PAP formed the government, we faced many difficulties.

Efforts were then concentrated on solving three fundamental problems faced in 1959. There was a high level of unemployment. There were slums and shortages in housing. There were not enough schools for our children.

Now, there is /2.

Now, there is full employment so much so that job hopping is regrettably becoming a way of life for some. More than 60 per cent of our population are housed in HDB flats. The problem now is no longer a demand for housing but for a change to better flats. There is now a place for every child going to school. More places will be available in the secondary schools and the university. A rising standard of living and full employment bring higher expectations. These expectations can be fulfilled if we adopt the strategy for economic progress outlined by the Prime Minister and some of my other colleagues.

They have pointed out that the way to future progress is through hard work and acquiring higher skills. Of course, plans have already been made to provide the necessary infrastructure for industrial progress. For example, the existing Senoko Power Station is being expanded. The EUB plans to build another power station at Pulau Seraya to meet the electricity demand up to the middle of the 1980s.

Because of the high fuel cost, the EUB is also looking into the feasibility of building coal-fired power stations at Pulau Takong and Pulau Seraya.

We know the road to take to further economic development. But a nation cannot be great nor will it survive if it depends solely on material well-being.

In a multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious society like Singapore, there are many manifestations of spiritual and cultural values. However, we will be on common grounds if we foster and nourish:-

- 1) Love for and loyalty to Singapore;
- 2) A sense of belonging to and care for the community;
- 3) Filial piety and respect for the elders.

As citizens, we take pride in our achievements. But taking pride in the country alone is not enough. We must love our country and be loyal to her and be willing to make sacrifices for her success and survival.

There must be consideration for our fellow citizens and care for the community. This we have as is shown by the overwhelming response to the appeal for funds to build the new Cairn-hill Community Centre.

We must also show respect for our elders and filial piety towards our parents. Filial piety and respect for elders bring order to the house. If the house is orderly, it makes it easier to have an orderly nation.

If we foster these three precepts and follow the strategy laid down for economic progress, we will have a prosperous, vigorous and strong nation.

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