EXCERPTS OF PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT HUA YI GOVERNMENT CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOL AT THE WEEKEND WHEN HE DECLARED OPEN THE EXHIBITION DEPICTING THE PROGRESS OF SINGAPORE'S EDUCATION IN THE LAST 150 YEARS

It is the future that counts. We have to make the effort, to plan, to organise, so as to bring into being a more secure, more stable and more prosperous Singapore.

If the preceding generation only had the foresight to see ahead and the courage to assert their rights, we would have had a more broader framework on which to build our future. But the past is the past.

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Fortunately, the present generation had the courage to face difficult situations. So we have Singapore, making it possible for us to organise ourselves to preserve and safeguard the values that we all cherish.

We are a small country. It is imperative that the emphasis is on the quality, not quantity. We must nurture, train and educate our people and so organise our society, to enable us -- a nation of 2 million -- to match the performance and capacity of countries larger than us.

To achieve this, the key is education. Every school, primary, secondary or university, all must train and educate our youth to bring out their best, a rugged and robust generation. They must have the capacity to contribute to national security and social order, and help the growth and development of our economy.

Date: 19th August, 1969.

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