STATEMENT BY MR. LEE KUAN YEW AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER NOMINATION AT THE POLYTECHNIC BOARD ROOM ON 23RD AUGUST, 1972

This is the 14th year of PAP government. We have a team with a wide spread of trained abilities in planning and administration, and considerable experience. The record of successive PAP Cabinets from 1959 to 1972 is one of honest government, practical policies and efficient implementation.

Our primary aim now is that every citizen should be educated to his fullest potential, to hold a job equal to his training and ability, and as his performance and output increase, so will his pay increase.

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In 1959, Singapore was a riotous place heading for destruction. Today, it is an orderly and constructive society. All of us have a stake in keeping it stable, hardworking and productive. We sweated the last seven years to get a stagnating economy, with chronic unemployment, moving forward and upwards, now with considerable buoyancy. To allow anyone to disrupt this trend towards a better society would be dereliction of our duty.

Every time elections are about to be held, the same old political gamblers, and a few new punters, form political parties to try their luck, many with other people's money. They believe they can win a lottery by promising to give the voters everything cheaper, or for free. To them, an election is an auction, a bidding contest to give away free houses, free medical services, more licence to the voter to do whatever he wants. None of them can tell you how Singapore, an island of 2.1 million, at 10,000 per square mile, can create and increase your total wealth before anything can be given away.

We never promise what cannot be done, and we make a practice of doing what we have promised. Given imaginative leadership, we in the PAP believe Singapore can make more out of our now increased economic infrastructure, and put the professional, industrial and commercial ability of our people to more rewarding pursuits in a fast-changing part of the world. It is only natural that our neighbours want to do their own exports of rubber, pepper and other produce.

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We must move to new fields, in brain servicing, banking and finance, ship repairing and shipbuilding, and be a base for middle technology manufacture by mutli-national corporations with a world-wide market.

Our second most important duty is to provide Singapore with a next generation leadership, with experience in government. The most crucial

experience is how to mobilise our people in support of national policies to give Singaporeans an ever better future, with stability and security enhanced by a stronger economic and social base.

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