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**SPEECH BY MR LEE YOCK SUAN, MINISTER FOR LABOUR,
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW EUNOS COMMUNITY CENTRE
AT 180 BEDOK RESERVOIR ROAD
ON FRIDAY, 23 JUNE 1989 AT 8.00 PM**

I am pleased to be with you this evening to celebrate the official opening of the new Eunos Community Centre.

With the completion of this Centre, there are now 75 modern community centres in Singapore. Another seven such centres are being planned for completion by end 1992.

The People's Association has continued to upgrade the facilities and designs of the community centres to meet the changing needs and interests of our increasingly affluent and better-educated population. Besides new activities, the PA has also emphasized the need to preserve our traditional values and heritage to reinforce our economic and social progress. It is necessary for the CCs to always strike a balance between the new programmes such as computer programming, classical music, piano, ballet, aerobics and karaoke and the traditional ones such as Chinese, Malay and Indian cultural dances, music, sports and arts.

The CC should continue to be a focal point where different cultures can interact. It should be further developed as a bridge where one can learn more about the finer points of his own culture and expose himself to the other cultures of his fellow citizens. Such exposure and interaction of different traditional cultures will promote racial harmony and social cohesion.

I believe that we need to be innovative and qualitative in our approach if we want to preserve the traditional arts and cultures. We must try to achieve excellence through quality and creativity so that our traditional arts and culture can appeal to the young as well. Take the annual Chingay procession as an example. It was a static performance up to 1985. As we improved its quality, we transformed it into a moving procession so that more spectators can view it. To enhance the popular appeal of Chingay, which has been a morning event since 1973, we have decided to hold Chingay at night next year. Holding Chingay at night offers us new opportunities to introduce fresh ideas to make it a more exciting and colourful event of music, songs, dance and lights.

The completion of this new Eunos Community Centre is a significant achievement of the Member of Parliament for Eunos, Mr Zulkifli bin Mohammed. It is also a testimony of the dedication of the Management Committee, Building Fund Committee, other grassroots organisations and residents of Eunos.

It gives me great pleasure now to declare the new Eunos Community Centre open and to wish it every success.

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