

PRESS RELEASE

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**SPEECH BY MR LEE YOCK SUAN, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,
AT THE NATIONAL POLICE CADET CORPS (NPCC) DAY PARADE
AT THE POLICE ACADEMY
ON SATURDAY, 29 APRIL 1995 AT 5.00 PM**

I am happy to be present at this parade to celebrate the National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) Day and the 36th Anniversary of the NPCC.

The Corps has come a long way since its inception in 1959 when it began as an experimental unit with 30 cadets and one officer at Bartley Secondary School. Today, it is the largest uniformed youth organisation in Singapore with 616 teacher-officers and 21,000 cadets in 142 secondary schools.

NPCC Day will be observed in schools on Friday, 5 May 1995. It is an occasion for members of the Corps to re-dedicate themselves to the ideals of the organisation. I wish to thank parents and families of cadets for their support and understanding of this extra-curricular activity (ECA). I am sure parents recognise the value of their children's participation in NPCC activities such as camping, marching, shooting as well as preparation for drill competitions and parades. Parental support and encouragement will assist their children to excel in such activities.

However, for the NPCC to be a meaningful, uniformed-group ECA, there has to be a strong corps of teacher-officers to provide the leadership and guidance. I am pleased to say that our teacher-officers in the NPCC are not only competent, they are also committed to the ideals of the organisation. Indeed their efforts in providing a wholesome ECA to nurture our young deserve our praise and gratitude. Our appreciation should also go to their spouses and families for their understanding, as often the teacher-officers have to put in long hours training their cadets.

The Revised ECA Guidelines for schools issued in March this year emphasise one core Extra-Curricular Activity per pupil. The aims of ECA are:

- to teach pupils useful skills
- to inculcate in them desirable values and social attitudes
- to provide for healthy recreation and
- to nurture leadership qualities in our pupils.

The NPCC, with its wide and varied activities, is well placed to meet these aims. I hope all cadets will learn well the vital skills of survival, security and safety - whether they be in the areas of campcraft, road safety or security measures in your school or home. These skills will be invaluable to you and will help you to cope with the rigours of National Service. Cadets who are well-trained are an asset to the nation. They have the discipline and the ruggedness to be leaders in our society.

Schools are encouraging pupils to take an active part in ECA and not just concentrate on their studies. There are provisions to reward the efforts and contributions of pupils who do well in their ECAs. Marks are awarded under 'Participation', 'Achievement' and 'Bonus' categories. ECA points could be used for admission to three-year A-level courses at the Centralised Institutes. Active participation in ECA could also earn you bonus points for admission to junior colleges or polytechnic courses of your choice. However, more important than the ECA points or grades are the valuable lessons and skills as well as team spirit which you can acquire through participation in ECA. Above all, you should enjoy your ECA. It is an opportunity to get away from your books now and then and develop into more-rounded persons with abilities beyond just academic achievement.

I am pleased to note that the NPCC has various projects lined up for the coming year. They include a plan to build a

comprehensive and modern campsite on Pulau Ubin which will be large enough to have facilities for outdoor activities and house several hundred campers. The NPCC will also replace the mark Four and Five rifles with M16 rifles for training from this year.

The NPCC has expanded its variety of activities to include an Outward Bound course at Lumut, Perak, Malaysia and more adventurous overseas tours like trekking and bushwalking for younger teacher-officers. It is significant that there will be an NPCC Service Day, the first of which will be on 20 May 95. The Service Day will build into the NPCC programme an element of community service through blood donation drives, visits to homes as well as gifts and outings for the less fortunate.

I commend the NPCC for being forward-looking in preparing our youths to be future leaders and good citizens of Singapore. I thank the members of the NPCC Council for their strong support for the organisation and for guiding the Corps to achieve its ideals.

Finally, let me congratulate the winners of the Overall Unit Proficiency Award and all those of you on parade today for your smart turn-out and bearing. I wish all of you success in your future endeavours.

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