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**SPEECH BY MR LEE YOCK SUAN,
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
AND MP FOR CHENG SAN GRC
AT THE LAUNCH OF THE BOOK "PUNGGOL REVISITED"
AT PUNGGOL COMMUNITY CLUB
AT 9.30 AM ON SUNDAY, 21 JULY 1996**

I am very happy to be here to celebrate Community Day with you and to launch your commemorative book, "Punggol Revisited".

Punggol Constituency became part of Cheng San GRC in 1991. Known as Punggol Division it is a huge area with much potential for further development. Already it has more than 200 HDB blocks of flats, a neighbourhood park, a sports complex, several schools and other social and recreational amenities.

I am very glad that the MP here is none other than my Parliamentary colleague and good friend, Dr Michael Lim, a highly qualified heart specialist. More importantly he is an energetic and committed young man who has dedicated himself as the MP to do his best for Punggol and Cheng San GRC as a whole. Under his able leadership, Punggol has seen many improvements over the past five years. He is fortunate to have the co-operation and support of many community leaders and residents who have all contributed to make Punggol a better place to live in. Through the untiring efforts of Dr Lim and his community leaders, Punggol residents can now enjoy the convenience of better public

transport services, a bus interchange, Punggol Park, Punggol Community Club, Community Children's Library, education, child-care and family service centres, shopping and entertainment complexes, covered walkways and numerous other facilities.

From a sleepy fishing village and a pig-farming area, Punggol has been transformed over the past decade into a throbbing New Town which is still growing and getting better day by day. It will soon have more modern shopping facilities, as well as a branch library and a post office. The North-east sector of Singapore, which includes Punggol and Serangoon North, is now one of the most sought-after areas by HDB upgraders and young couples from Ang Mo Kio and other parts of Singapore.

To Punggol residents, one of the most welcome developments must undoubtedly be the Government's decision to bring forward the construction of the North-east MRT line. It will cost about \$5 billion, more than what it cost to build the N-S and E-W lines together. When completed in 2002, the N-E MRT line will open up Punggol division and create an exciting and modern residential cum recreational area complete with marinas and other resort facilities by the sea. Served by four MRT stations viz Hougang, Buangkok, Sengkang and Punggol stations, the total development will stretch from Hougang Ave 2 all the way to Punggol Point and beyond to Coney Island. It will encompass Hougang, Sengkang and Punggol New Towns, with a good mix of public and private housing as well as commercial and recreational facilities.

These exciting developments are described in Chapter two of your book which I would recommend that you read in some detail.

I must commend all of you who have played a part in the materialisation of this book which I am sure many of you will treasure. It is well researched and highly readable, with many attractive photos and illustrations. It has taken enormous effort by many, not least in raising the \$650,000 in advertisements, to publish this book. But the result has been well worth it. A copy of the book will be distributed free to every household in Punggol division.

It gives me great pleasure now to launch the book, "Punggol Revisited", and to wish all of you many hours of pleasant reading, happy memories of what you have achieved in Punggol and beautiful dreams of the best that is yet to come.

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