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Singapore Government

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SPEECH BY MR LEE YIOK SENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BUKIT PANJANG,
AT THE BUKIT PANJANG CONSTITUENCY 16TH NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION
DINNER CUM VARIETY SHOW AT HSH MIN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 18.6 KM
WOODLANDS ROAD ON THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST 1981 AT 8.00 PM

It gives me great pleasure to be here tonight celebrating our country's 16th National Day.

I think I need not elaborate on the achievements of our nation these past 16 years. All around us is evidence of growth and economic development.

Our Bukit Panjang Constituency, situated as it is, away from the Central Area, has also not been left untouched. With the hardwork and co-operation of members of the CCC and CMCs and the support of the people over the years, development projects in our constituency, such as the metalling of roads, and water and electricity supplies, have been smoothly carried out to the great satisfaction of the people. With the development of Woodlands New Town, our constituents are now enjoying the kind of 'city' life not much different from that of the City Centre.

Recently, the HDB has acquired a piece of land at 16½ km Upper Bukit Timah Road for public housing development. Eventually, this piece of land will develop into another new HDB housing estate with all the modern facilities. The land of about 26.3 ha is currently heavily encumbered with squatters. I hope when the land has to be entirely cleared possibly within the next few years, all those involved will co-operate with the HDB positively. For long-term benefits, the sooner the land can become available for development, the better for the people.

As Bukit Panjang gradually becomes more and more urban in character, I hope many of the good attributes of our rural community will be preserved.

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I have found it very gratifying working all these years with you all. Unfailingly you have given me and the PAP your whole-hearted support. Your concern for community welfare must be upheld. I will be very sad if progress in Bukit Panjang comes with a decline in community spirit.

Already in Singapore one cannot help but feel that the last decade's progress has resulted in our people becoming more and more intolerant, demanding and materialistic. This is significant enough to worry us. There seems to be a loss of identity, a loss of a sense of social responsibility. We now earnestly have to explore a means of inculcating in our youth a Singaporean objective. Without our own philosophy of life our future ahead is blur.

As a start, we should preserve all that we hold dear, be they age-old traditions or matters of principle, as a safe-guard against the erosion of our social values.

I would like to leave you with this thought.

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