

# Singapore Government **PRESS RELEASE**

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SPEECH BY MR LEE YIOK SENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BUKIT PANJANG  
AT THE 13TH SPEECH DAY OF CHESTNUT DRIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL  
ON FRIDAY, 7 AUGUST 1981 AT 9.15 AM

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Today Chestnut Drive Secondary School celebrates Singapore's  
16th National Day.

As students, no doubt secondary students, I do not expect  
you to realise the full significance of what our National Day means  
to us. To you, National day probably brings to mind soldiers  
marching in a parade, youth performances, floats on procession and  
fireworks. True, these displays of national rejoicing are import-  
ant. They represent our country's joy in maintaining our hard-  
fought independence for which we have every reason to celebrate.

However, in National Day celebrations, schools, I feel,  
should take the opportunity to encourage students to think  
positively of how they as our country's future citizens, can  
contribute to society. Is it the role of youth to rebel against  
convention? Do we want our students to feel that by being defiant  
and non-conformist, they are necessarily the "brains" of our future  
society? It is hard, in fact rather impossible for me to convince  
you perhaps, that whatever our Government has done for you, or for  
your school-life, is genuinely what we feel is best for you and  
the future of our country. Some things we can only learn with age  
and I hope with the wisdom of hindsight behind us, our Singapore  
youth will go along all the way with us. Where we err, we ask for  
forgiveness, as we too like you have to learn from our mistakes.

This year, your school has appropriately taken on the theme  
of co-operation by team work. This concept of team work is very  
important, not only to you in your student days. If it can be  
successfully applied in society, many of our administrative and  
management problems will be eradicated.

I have no ..... /2.

I have no doubt this concept of team work will definitely be a success in your school. Even without the theme being actively promoted, your practical experience in school already shows you that in many instances you have to work as a team, play as a team. If you do not forget this spirit of team work by the time you leave school, you will find life outside all the easier and more pleasant to live in.

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