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SPEECH BY MR LEE YIOK SENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) AT THE PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES
TO WINNERS OF THE "KEEP OUR ENVIRONMENT GREEN AND BEAUTIFUL
COMPETITION" AT THE SCHOOL OF ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE,
BOTANIC GARDENS ON SATURDAY, 30 JANUARY 1982 AT 10.00 AM

I am happy to be here this morning to give away the commendation and participation certificates to the many participants of our second "Keep Our Environment Green and Beautiful Competition".

Singapore has achieved quite a reputation amongst the international community as a city of cleanliness and beauty. This reputation should, and must be maintained, not because we want the tourist dollar, but because a clean and green environment makes Singapore a much better place to live in, for ourselves, and for future generations of Singaporeans.

The Parks and Recreation Department has done a good job in greening the city. However, much work still has to be done. We need a greater variety of flowering plants and shrubs, better designed and more spacious parks, and more aesthetically set and laid out landscapes. The challenge ahead therefore is quality, now that the quantitative targets of tree planting have largely been fulfilled.

I am confident that our future efforts will continue to be successful if we can have the continuous involvement of the people of Singapore. I am therefore most happy to note that in this competition, 71 military camps, 68 schools and 42 community centres have participated, mobilising hundreds of soldiers, students and citizens in keeping their institutions and buildings green, clean and beautiful. Twenty-two of the participating institutions (six camps, 15 schools and one community centre) are particularly noteworthy for their efforts to landscape and maintain their compounds. They are being awarded with Commendation Certificates. The other institutions have also shown a great interest in gardening

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activities and have maintained their buildings and compounds clean and green. They are being awarded with Certificates of Participation.

In view of the great interest shown, the Parks and Recreation Department will continue to organise more of such competitions in the future to promote and develop a greater awareness in landscaping, design and gardening. In February, a garden design competition for "A" Level students will be launched to spot talented students with an aptitude for design work who can be encouraged to pursue a career in landscape architecture. Winners of this competition will be considered for scholarship awards by the Public Service Commission to undertake undergraduate courses in landscape architecture overseas. In March, the Parks and Recreation Department will launch a competition for a Master Plan design to improve the existing Fort Canning Park with a view to developing it into a historical park of various interesting features for the enjoyment of our citizens.

May I now offer my congratulations to the winners and participants of this "Keep our Environment Green and Beautiful Competition 1981". I have no doubt that the experience gained and the interest generated from participating in the competition will stand the participants in good stead in their continuous efforts to maintain their compounds, grounds and gardens.
