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SPEECH BY MR LEE YIOK SENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) AT THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE JUNIOR COLLEGES AT MARINE PARADE, ANG MO KIO AND MOUNT SINAI ROAD AT PENTHOUSE NEGARA, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BUILDING ON SATURDAY 27 MAR 82 AT 11.30 AM

The idea of educating our pre-University students in Junior College instead of at secondary school environment was first put forward in mid 1960. A Junior College education is intended to bridge the gap between the secondary school and the University. Instead of having lessons in a classroom of 40 students, lectures are conducted in lecture theatres for 100 to 200 students. Tutorials are conducted in small groups to assist the pupils in their subjects. The students are not only given greater independence but are also encouraged to organise functions and activities. The National Junior College is the first one to be built and it started functioning in 1969. This College proved to be a success and a second government Junior College, the Tanasek Junior College and various other Junior Colleges were subsequently built.

With the signing of the contracts for the construction of the three Junior Colleges today - at Marine Parade, Ang Mo Kio and Mount Sinai Road, we see the commencement of the Second Junior College Building Programme. This programme consists of seven Junior Colleges - the other four will be at Jurong West, Yishun, Hougang and Tampines, and will be completed by 1986. Details for a Third Junior College Building Programme consisting of five more Junior Colleges are now being finalised. These are targetted for completion in 1990.

These three Junior Colleges are to be completed by the end of 1983 at a cost of about \$20 million each. The designs of these Junior Colleges are the winning entries of a design competition which was held in 1980.

A Junior College these days is a well equipped teaching institution. Each of these Junior Colleges has four lecture theatres, 10 science laboratories and specialised rooms such as Computer Rooms, Audio Visual Aid Rooms, Language Rooms, Music Rooms as well as a Library. There are facilities for extra curricular activities and provision is made for two squash courts, tennis and basketball courts, a table tennis room, an indoor air rifle range and a multi-purpose hall. There will also be a large field complete with a 400-metre running track and spectator gallery. Apart from these, the Junior College will also have a counselling room and student lounges. The teaching staff will also have good facilities and there will be a large staff common room and individual offices for the Principal, Vice-Principal and Heads of Department.

Besides building Junior Colleges, the Government is also constructing a large number of Primary and Secondary schools. In the 1970's the building of schools gained momentum and many new designs were developed. The school building programme was stepped up to provide schools in new HDB estates and to replace older schools with new and improved designs. The new generation schools are more spacious and better designed. New and improved designs are continually being developed. Whenever site conditions permit, each school in a public housing estate will have a distinctive architectural facade of its own, so that teachers, parents and students could identify themselves better with the school.

It is my great pleasure to officiate at this Contract Signing Ceremony for the Junior Colleges at Marine Parade, Ang Mo Kio and Mount Sinai Road. My best wishes to the contractors in their construction of these Junior Colleges.
