

83-0020-44

Release No: 23/NOV
14-3/83/11/08

**SPEECH BY MR LEE YIOK SENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) AND ADVISOR TO HAVELOCK CCC/CCMC/RCS
AT THE OPENING OF THE PRODUCTIVITY MONTH EXHIBITION AT
HAVELOCK COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY
8 NOVEMBER 1983 AT 8.00 PM**

The theme for this exhibition is both topical and important. It is topical as November is our Productivity Month. During this month, our country, at each level, and in every sector, is geared to launch a series of activities to remind, or to educate, our citizens on the importance of productivity. Productivity and indeed, this evening's exhibition is important because higher productivity is vital for our continued survival and well-being. We are an open economy, without resources, except the enterprise of our citizens. To compete successfully against other countries, we always need to do better. We must make the best out of the least available.

Productivity is everybody's business. If we are productive, and our country prospers, there will be more income or fringe benefits for everyone to share. This is why we must constantly remind ourselves the complementary roles management and labour play in improving productivity. Without management support and interest, or without keen participation from the labour force, no productivity programmes can succeed. We must all have the will to do better. We are and should all be involved.

What is productivity? Put it very simply, it means doing our job better, or faster, with zero or minimal defect. It requires working together as a team, to solve,

or anticipate problems. It requires also the will to strive, the right job attitudes, and pride of work. Given the will, the management and the company must and should provide the means. Our productivity movement therefore also stresses the importance of training courses, skill upgrading programmes, seminars and other job enrichment schemes where management can have the greatest contributions in helping our workers improve their productivity. Our ultimate aim must be to instill in each of us the awareness, the will and the means to perform better.

The Japanese have a life-long habit of productivity, cultivated from young. Our school children must not think that productivity is only for the parents. To the school children, productivity concerns their behaviour and attitudes. For example, going to school punctually means that later on in working life the student will also be punctual at work. Keeping his desk clean and doing his homework on time also leads to good habits when he works in future. Getting involved in school projects and participating in team games will develop the team spirit that is so vital in the working environment.

As productivity is everybody's concern, it should also be extended to the housewives. For the housewives, increased productivity means planning their marketing and shopping. The simple action of planning for the shopping means that they need not later send their children to the shop to buy something which they have missed. Just by having a shopping list will be their contribution towards the productivity movement effort.

It is now my pleasure to declare the Exhibition open.