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**SPEECH BY MR LEE YIOK SENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF
WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEW PREMISES ON TUESDAY
16 AUGUST 1988 AT 6.00 PM**

I am honoured to be here today on the occasion of the opening of the new premises of Woodlands Primary School. Few existing Government primary schools can lay claim to as a long history as Woodlands Primary School.

The School started, 35 years ago, in 1953, as Sungei Kadut Primary School. In 1976, it had to be relocated because of the development and expansion of wood-based industries in its vicinity. All its pupils, over 600 of them, with their 24 teachers, were moved into a new school building at Marsiling Road. There, Woodlands Primary School came into existence. The pupil enrolment increased considerably, so much so that when the school was officially opened in 1978, there were already 1,900 pupils. Most of them lived nearby and many had only to walk to the school. A close bond developed between the school and residents in the neighbourhood.

However, with the development of Woodlands New Town and the population shift in the area, Woodlands Primary School had again to be relocated and this time, to its present site in Woodlands itself.

I am pleased to learn that there are at least three teachers from Sungei Kadut Primary and thirty-eight from the former Woodlands Primary who are still on the present staff. These teachers have helped to pass on the traditions and culture of the school built up over the past 35 years.

Most of the pupils coming to Woodlands Primary School live in the surrounding HDB flats. It is therefore important that the school consciously plans its programmes to meet the intellectual, physical, social and emotional needs of these children. It is also important that the school maintains close links with the community, of which it is a part. I am glad to know that the school has been encouraging its pupils to participate in many of the activities organised by the community centre.

It is equally heartening to note that the school is building up closer rapport with the parents to get their co-operation and support. Woodlands Primary School produces a bi-monthly newsletter to keep parents informed of events and activities in the school. On their part, parents can show their support for the school not only by attending school functions, like this evening's Official Opening, but also by regularly monitoring their children's academic work and extra-curricular activities. In this way, the school and the home can work together as a team to benefit the children.

The teachers have many years of dedicated experience and have always done their best in guiding their pupils along the path to success in academic performance and in their total development. Academically, Woodlands Primary School is noted for its good results, especially in the PSLE. In 1982, one of the pupils was awarded the Prime Minister's Book Prize. In 1986, two more pupils received the same Book Prize. The school is also proud that three of its pupils were awarded the ASEAN Scholarship for Secondary Schools in 1986.

The school has also done well in extra-curricular activities (ECAs). The active pupil participation in the wide range of ECAs in the school helps turn out well-rounded and rugged young boys and girls in preparation for becoming

the reliable, responsible and caring citizens of tomorrow. I was told that the school's track and field team has won many laurels at the national level. Last year, the Chinese dancers did the school proud when they were awarded a certificate of distinction at the Singapore Youth Festival Music and Dance Presentation.

I am confident that, with its modern facilities and improved resources, Woodlands Primary School will continue to grow given the dedicated effort of the staff and under the able administration of the principal. In addition, the enthusiastic support of the School Advisory Committee and the parents will also go a long way in helping the school achieve its goal of providing an excellent total education for its pupils.

On this auspicious occasion, I wish all the best to those who have contributed to the well-being and development of the school. I also congratulate all who are involved in making this official opening a grand and memorable event.

And now, with great pleasure, I declare the new premises of Woodlands Primary School officially open.

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