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TEXT OF SPEECH BY M.P. FOR PONGGOL, MR. NG KAH TING,
AT THE CLOSING CELEBRATIONS, ORGANISED BY THE RESIDENTS
OF PONGGOL CONSTITUENCY, TO MARK THE NATIONAL DAY AND
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MODERN SINGAPORE, AT
THE PONGGOL COMMUNITY CENTRE, ON SUNDAY, AUG.17, AT 7.30 P.M.

Today we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of modern Singapore. It is, therefore, of great significance and importance to every Singaporean. Our forebears came 150 years ago. Over the years, Singapore, which was then merely a fishing village and swampland, has developed into the metropolis of South-East Asia.

The changes that took place in the last decade have transformed the economic and social order of Singapore and today our Republic enjoys a high standard of living, which is next to Japan in the Asian continent. This is largely due to the honest and dynamic leadership of the People's Action Party and the response of the people to meet the realities of the changing situation. Tonight's celebrations are indeed a fitting finale to the numerous activities organised in the schools and community centres throughout the constituency in the past week. There were parties for children, cinema shows, exhibitions, sports and friendly matches.

With us tonight, are 100 national servicemen from Ponggol. We honour them because they symbolise Singapore's determination to continue to exist as an entity in this part of the world. At tonight's function, members of the C.C.C., Management Committees and Women Sub-Committee of the six community centres will receive letters of appointment. To them, I offer my sincere congratulations and thanks for their service to the community. The many social amenities such as water and electricity supplies, kampong street lights, and better roads in the constituency bear testimony to their hard work.

Our Prime Minister has on many occasions remarked that the world does not owe us a living. Hence, the indomitable spirit of Singaporeans to build a multi-racial, peaceful, progressive and prosperous nation has won the admiration and praise of the world as can be seen by the flood of messages of goodwill pouring in from all over the world during our sesquicentennial celebrations. And whilst we enjoy our good fortunes at functions like this, let us not forget and lose sight of the paramount need for hard work and sacrifices necessary for our continued existence and survival. And stress I must the Prime Minister's call on National Day that "we cannot afford not to succeed."

AUGUST 16, 1969.