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**SPEECH BY PROF S JAYAKUMAR, MINISTER FOR LAW AND HOME AFFAIRS,
AT THE LAUNCHING OF LOT BASE SYSTEM
AT THE NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY BOARD BUILDING AUDITORIUM
ON SATURDAY, 13 OCTOBER 1990 AT 9.15 AM**

I am happy to know that the Land departments, the Law Society, the Real Estate Developers Association of Singapore and the Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers have actively cooperated to organise today's seminar to raise funds for the 25th Anniversary. It is also very encouraging that such professional organisations have long been active in the Ministry's Land Systems Reference Group, providing us with valuable feedback and suggestions on matters touching you professionally and affecting the public at large.

The first phase of MinLaw's computerisation focused on the Land administration and registration functions of the Ministry. By judiciously investing in information technology to achieve better management and administration of its vast information resources, the Ministry can provide better support to policy-makers, as well as improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its own performance. In our computerisation efforts, we have given high priority to improve our services to the public.

Availability of up-to-date land information is very important to those we serve. Our first major project, the Lot Base System (LBS) has, as its main objective, the provision of better quality, more up-to-date information at greater speed and convenience to the users.

The LBS' computerised information which was previously made available to the public by the manual Index to Land Cards system includes tenure of land, whether it is State-owned and whether it is registered in the Registry of Titles or the Registry of Deeds. Previously, your clerks were subject to the arduous task of flipping over papers and cards and copying the required information from paper records. All that changed in December 1988, when computer print-outs from LBS were supplied over the counter at the Registry of Titles and Deeds. We are ready now to make another leap forward. Instead of your staff calling at the Registry to apply for computer print-outs from LBS, you can now have the information you require at your office at the touch of a button, thereby saving you time, effort and money.

Apart from improving efficiency and streamlining work procedures for Government departments and professional firms, the LBS is also a significant step towards our goal of obtaining information from or even conducting business with many agencies without having to move from one to the other. It could be linked to other computerised land systems to provide integrated land information.

The LBS is also the base of our next major land system, the Singapore Titles Automated Registration System (STARS), which will provide more valuable information such as up-to-date ownership and encumbrances of properties; it will also computerise the registration functions at the Registry of Titles and Deeds. The first phase of STARS is scheduled for implementation in two years' time.

The LBS is an achievement made possible by the hard work, persistence, and team work of four departments - Registry of Titles & Deeds, Land Office, Survey Department and MinLaw's Computer Information Systems Department. I congratulate all those who have contributed to the success of this system.

Let me again express my appreciation of the strong support given by the Law Society of Singapore, the Real Estate Developers Association of Singapore and the Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers. I look forward to all agencies requiring information available from LBS taking full advantage of the LBS on-line services offered. I also hope to see even closer cooperation and more dialogues' between the Land Departments and not only directly related professional organisations like the Law Society of Singapore, but also all other organisations such as the Institute of Architects, with an interest in the development of land. We should work together to further improve the standard of service and provide a package of services.

The second part of this morning's programme is a Charity Seminar on Strata Title Development, jointly organised by the Registry of Titles & Deeds, the Law Society, Real Estate Developers Association, Singapore Institute of Surveyors & Valuers and the Survey Department. Holding this Charity Seminar in conjunction with the launching of the LBS is doubly meaningful. It is symbolic of the fruitful relationship between the private and the public sectors. It is also a thoughtful gesture to remember the more needy of our Society and to remind ourselves that much remains to be done in our strive for excellence.

It gives me great pleasure to launch the Lot Base System.

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