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SPEECH BY DR TAY ENG SOON, MINISTER OF STATE (EDUCATION),
AT THE RIVER VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL'S THIRD SPEECH AND
PRIZE-GIVING DAY AT 341, RIVER VALLEY ROAD
ON FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 1987 AT 2.30 PM

I am very pleased to be present at the Third Anniversary and Speech Day of River Valley Primary School. Three years ago in 1985, River Valley Primary School was formed as a result of a merger of three primary schools. They were Kim Seng Primary School, River Valley English and River Valley Government Chinese Primary Schools.

The merger was necessary as the population of young pupils in the River Valley area has been going down steadily. This is partly due to the falling birth rate and also to the move of young couples to the HDB new towns.

The merger of well-established schools is always a time for adjustment. The staff have to come together to work together. There may be changes of responsibilities and assignments. It is understandably a difficult period. But the fact that River Valley Primary has emerged as a strong and popular school is certainly a credit to your Principal and teachers who have managed to work harmoniously together. I should also congratulate the new School Advisory Committee who supported the school in this renewal endeavour.

River Valley Primary is a very popular school in our area. This is because parents recognise the good environment and high standards that you have. Your PSLE results are above the national average. Last year, you achieved a 89.5 per cent pass rate.

But more than a good academic record, I strongly urge you to create a caring and friendly environment for the young children who are attending your school. Young children need love and care. The best we can do for them is to give them good teaching and at the same time give them an environment in which they will enjoy school.

I would also urge parents to contribute what they can to the efforts of the school. They must not over-pressurise their children. But they should give positive encouragement to them and help them become confident in themselves.

May I close by wishing all of you all the best for the year ahead.

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