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**SPEECH BY MR TANG GUAN SENG, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(EDUCATION), AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF
DR RICHARD LEE'S ART EXHIBITION AT THE YORK HOTEL
ON SATURDAY, 31 MAY 1986 AT 4 PM**

I am indeed honoured to be invited to officiate at the opening of this exhibition and sale of Chinese paintings by Dr Richard Lee. I was informed that the proceeds from the sale will go to the Lions' Home for the Elders and the Lions' Home for the Aged Sick. The efforts put in for this good cause by Dr Lee and members of the Organising Committee are commendable.

Service clubs, such as the Lioness Club of Singapore, have been making significant contributions to the welfare of our people. In Singapore, not only the more successful are concerned with and engaged in the projects to meet the needs of the less fortunate, the general public also plays a role in charity projects. The Hotel New World tragedy showed that when the need arises, our people are willing to donate money to help the unfortunate, and even are prepared to risk their own lives and limbs to rescue their fellow citizens.

This kind of public spiritedness is crucial if we want to make Singapore a more pleasant place to live in.

In an immigrant society, human relationship is closer and warmer. Our predecessors formed a wide range of clan and trade associations, religious organisations and professional societies to look after the interests of the weaker fellow members. As a result, strong bonds

between members were forged and the spirit of mutual help inculcated. They strongly believed in that "what is taken from the society must be used in the interests of the society".

However, rapid economic developments and drastic social changes in the last two decades have somewhat eroded this valuable asset of our society. While we have now set our new economic direction after many years of high growth, we must also have to rejuvenate this pioneer spirit.

In this context, the 16 Lions Clubs and eight Lioness Clubs in Singapore are to be encouraged in the establishment of the Lions' Home for the Elders and the Lions' Home for the Aged Sick.

Our society is faced with rising number of aged people who are required to be cared for by the government and the community. Your long-term committment in these projects is your way of showing care and compassion for your fellow-citizens who are needy, under-privileged or aged. It is in no small measure a contribution to solve our country's problem of an aging population.

You are fortunate to have Dr Richard Lee to support you all. I hope that his donation of 35 paintings would get you the amount you have targetted to raise.

It is my pleasure now to declare the exhibition open.