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**SPEECH BY MR. TANG GUAN SENG, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(EDUCATION), ON THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
CHUNG CHENG HIGH SCHOOL  
ON SATURDAY 12 JULY 1986 AT 10.00 AM**

First, I would like to say that I am pleased to be here with you this morning at your 47th anniversary celebrations. This has given me the opportunity to meet with you: pupils, teachers, parents and friends of the Schools.

I was quite moved after going through the history of the School. Chung Cheng High School was founded in 1939 by a group of community leaders enthusiastic about Chinese education. The School was then housed in a dilapidated detached house at Kim Yam Road, with very poor teaching facilities. Despite its physical shortcomings, the School was a success quickly as many pupils sought admission into it. In 1947, to cope with growing demands for places in the School, the present site was acquired and school buildings were erected in these pleasant surroundings. The founders were obviously men of conviction and vision. This was reflected by their apt selection of "Hao Xue Li Xing", the English equivalent of which is "Diligence in study, perseverance, in practice" as the school motto. It was also shown by their philosophy of providing good education for the young irrespective of what socio-economic background they came from. For the past 47 years, Chung Cheng High School has developed not only into an institution with modern buildings and amenities but also one with good traditions. In addition, it has also produced many young and able people to serve our country. Many of them are now manning key posts in both the private and public sectors.

Since its founding, the school has been blessed with a very supportive Management Committee. Traditionally, the Committee has always been headed by a group of successful businessmen. They are not only interested in promoting education but they are also always ready to finance the school development projects. That Chung Cheng High School has attained its present status is due to a large extent to their commitment and their generous support. Their contributions must be given due acknowledgement.

There are many schools in Singapore, like Chung Cheng High School with a long and glorious history. These are valuable assets to us, especially a young nation like ours. The development of these schools is in line with the development of our society. These schools themselves are also clear evidence of the unstinting effort and hard work put in by our ancestors. With the passage of time, these schools acquired an illustrious tradition and established their own distinctive characters. We should further develop these good traditions and characters. In this respect, the schools may want to consider collecting and displaying all past documents, records and magazines, and if it is at all possible, set up a permanent place to display all these. Moreover, the schools could forge a closer link with their former students by inviting them to participate in activities in the schools, and seek their cooperation and support for the future development of the schools.

For its fine traditions and its conducive learning environment, Chung Cheng High School (main) was selected in 1979 by the Ministry of Education to be one of the nine Special Assistance Plan schools. One of the objectives of the SAP schools is to prepare the good primary six pupils to be effectively bilingual and to inculcate in them traditional values in a Chinese School environment. I am happy to learn that the school, with the support of the School Management Committee, the dedication of the

Principal, the teachers and the hardwork of the pupils, has made good progress in the academic area. For the inculcation of the time-honoured social values, the school has been implementing effective moral education programmes and involving the pupils in active community service.

This year, Chung Cheng High School (main) has gone single-session. Feedback from the school has indicated that the pupils have benefited in many ways. Chiefly among them is the availability of more contact time with their teachers than is possible in a double-session school. With the aim to make this a permanent feature in the school, the School Management Committee has plans to develop the school facilities further by adding new buildings in the school campus. This is yet another manifestation of the Committee's dedication to the founders' spirit of providing good education to the young. I wish the School Management Committee an early realization of its development plans.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the prize-winners for the success which they have achieved through their hardwork and perserverance. I would also like to urge all the other pupils of the school to emulate them in order to bring greater honour to the school. The Singapore of tomorrow needs a constant supply of men and women with knowledge and leadership to lead the nation. I have no doubt that Chung Cheng High School will contribute its quota of leaders

I wish you all success in your endeavours.

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