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**SPEECH BY DR TONY TAN KENG YAM, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF NAVAL BASE SECONDARY SCHOOL'S NEW PREMISES ON SATURDAY, 31 MARCH 1990 AT 6.30 PM**

I would, first of all, like to thank your principal and your School Advisory Committee for kindly inviting me to officiate at this function - the official opening of the new premises of Naval Base Secondary School. As a Member of Parliament for Sembawang GRC, I am particularly pleased to be here as Naval Base Secondary School has been a familiar and long established institution in Sembawang.

Naval Base Secondary School started in 1957 with only two secondary one classes which were temporarily accommodated at Yio Chu Kang Primary School. In 1958, the school moved to then up-to-date premises at Bah Tan Road, off Chong Pang Road, in Sembawang. Between 1958 to 1968, Naval Base Secondary School functioned as a full school until its primary section was transferred to Canberra School.

With the changing population in Sembawang and to meet the needs of the growing number of residents in Yishun New Town, it was eventually decided that Naval Base Secondary School should move in 1988 to entirely new premises at Yishun Ring Road. The new premises of Naval Base Secondary School is an indication of our continuing commitment to raising the standard of education in Singapore.

Since its move to its present location, the enrolment of Naval Base Secondary School has increased. The enrolment now stands at over 1,000 pupils. Most of the pupils come from the Sembawang and Yishun communities. For more than 30 years, Naval

Base Secondary School has fulfilled its role as a neighbourhood school educating and preparing thousands of boys and girls for life in modern Singapore.

I am happy to note that academic standards in Naval Base Secondary School has steadily risen with the number of pupils attaining three or more subjects at 'O' level increasing from 73 per cent in 1987 to 82 per cent last year. With the new facilities which range from an air-conditioned library and a language laboratory to a technical wing, this improvement in academic standards will continue. Naval Base Secondary School also has a computer laboratory with 22 computers. This will stand the school in good stead in its efforts to prepare its pupils for work in a world where computers and information technology techniques are becoming common-place.

A feature of Naval Base Secondary School is its close connections with and concern for the community. This concern is demonstrated, for example, by the School "adopting" the Sree Narayana Mission Home for the Aged Sick. Since 1986, every class in Naval Base Secondary School has visited the home at least once a year to help clean the premises, donate food and provide the elderly with companionship. This organised programme of visits and activities is an indication of the genuine desire that you have to contribute to society.

For many years now, Naval Base Secondary School has also been a familiar sight at our National Day Celebrations in Sembawang. On these occasions, the dances, songs and band performances that the pupils have performed have brought much enjoyment to the people and contributed to the festivities.

In participating in community service, pupils not only benefit and enrich the community but they themselves gain in the act of serving others. In the course of doing community service, pupils develop attitudes, standards and principles which will influence them for life.

Following your School's motto to "Strive for the best", I am confident that Naval Base Secondary School will continue this spirit of not only aiming for high standards in education but also contributing and participating in the life of the community. In this way, Naval Base Secondary School will nurture its pupils and help them to grow to become responsible adults with a sense of service to the public.

In conclusion, I take great pleasure in declaring open the new premises of Naval Base Secondary School and I wish the School and all of you every success for the future.

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