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**SPEECH BY PRESIDENT WEE KIM WEE AT THE SWEARING-IN  
OF THE NEW CABINET AT THE ISTANA STATEROOM  
ON 13 SEPTEMBER 1988 at 12.00 NOON**

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Since 5th June 1959, when the first PAP Cabinet was sworn in, Singapore's transformation has been dramatic. Then, Singapore's success appeared impossible; today, our failure seems unthinkable. Different races living in separate worlds are becoming one nation, regardless of race, language and religion. A city of slums and despair has become a community of home owners and full employment.

This has happened only because many Singaporeans have toiled to make this a better place to live in. The able and committed among us have come forward to take on more than their fair share of the burden: planning, mobilising and fighting for the future of Singapore. The resolute leadership provided by you, Mr Prime Minister, and your colleagues in successive Cabinets has inspired our people, focussed our energies, and made the difference between success and failure.

However, these achievements, large as they are, will only be transient, unless a new generation of leaders, equally resolute, dedicated and committed, come forward to take Singapore on to the next stage.

Today's ceremony marks this new stage. Even whilst you remain as Prime Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong, as First Deputy Prime Minister, and a team of younger leaders will take the initiatives, and set the pace and direction of events.

Singapore's future lies with the new generation - both leaders and people. Are the new team able to take over the responsibility for the nation? Have they established themselves as leaders in their own right, with their own vision, their own approach to problems, and their own record of achievements? Will Singaporeans adopt the new team as their team, in whose success they have a vested interest, and with whom they are developing close bonds and mutual confidence?

Political transition and continuity are always difficult and uncertain. In Singapore, the process is taking place under the most possible favourable circumstances. Despite this, success is not guaranteed. To make it succeed is a challenge to all Singaporeans. Provided we rise to the occasion, as we have done so often before, our future for another generation will be assured.

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