

PRESS RELEASE

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**SPEECH BY THE ACTING PRESIDENT, DR YEOH GHIM SENG
AT THE SILVER JUBILEE DINNER OF THE SINGAPORE COUNCIL
OF SOCIAL SERVICE AT THE MANDARIN HOTEL
ON SATURDAY, 15 OCTOBER 1983 AT 8.00 PM**

My wife and I are pleased to be here this evening to join the Singapore Council of Social Service and its many affiliates in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the Singapore Council of Social Service.

When we think of a person who has just turned 25, we think of him or her as just setting out on the road to the more serious side of life - starting a career and taking on personal and social responsibilities and commitments.

However, I note that, in the last 25 years, the Singapore Council of Social Service, as the representative of the voluntary welfare sector, has made tremendous strides. In spite of your very modest and humble beginning 25 years ago, when you were operating from a desk space in a committee member's office, you strived on and a decade later found your permanent home in your own six-storey building. This new facility has not only provided you with a home, but also acts as an important base and nerve centre from where many new and dynamic social service activities and projects have emerged. It has served also as the centre of volunteer activities for both your own operations and those of your many affiliates. Your role in the voluntary welfare sector was of crucial importance in setting up the many social

welfare and helping services in Singapore. There is not one area of welfare service for the poor and needy, the disabled or sick, the deprived and neglected child, youth, adult and the elderly, not covered by voluntary charitable services.

You were fortunate to have had the leadership and sponsorship of respected leaders of the community. You have benefitted from the earlier leadership of your pioneer and founder, the late Dato Lee Kong Chian, and now your current dynamic president, Dr Ee Peng Liang, whose selfless dedication to community welfare activities has been most exemplary.

The government's primary role is to enable the individual to attain his potential through the provision of better basic social services, such as education, health, housing and employment. It will be for the voluntary sector to win over and harness the community's resources to meet welfare and social service needs. It will certainly mean greater effort on your part to lead the voluntary welfare organisations to work closely together, and to regularly review and re-evaluate current and future social needs of our fast changing society.

I would like to congratulate the Singapore Council of Social Service on your recent initiation of the Community Chest of Singapore, a new and efficient method of unified fund-raising for the charities under your wing. It deserves the support of the whole community. I wish you success in the enormous task that lies ahead. Through your co-ordinated leadership and guidance and the co-operative spirit of working together for the common good, the voluntary social service sector can achieve higher goals and contribute more effectively in filling the gaps that still exist in our welfare programme.

I wish the Council success and hope that you will continue with your good work to complement and assist the government to build a Singapore of which we can all truly be proud.

My wife and I extend our hearty congratulations to the Singapore Council of Social Service and to Dr Ee for the first 25 years well spent. We wish the Council and its affiliates many more years of continued dedication in the service of the community.

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