

TEXT SPEECH BY Mr Steven Leong

SMKTD's Graduating Class of 1994

Yang Berusaha YDP PIBG, En Chang Kim Loong, AMN, Yang Dihormati Tn Pengetua SMK Taman Desa, En Gan Peng Kheang, Penolong Kanan Kurikulum, Cik Tee Lee Hwa, Penolong Kanan Kokurikulum, En Ramizu bin Ibrahim, Penolong Kanan Tingkatan Enam, Pn Adeline Vasanthi Jagan, Penolong Kanan Petang, Pn Lau Bee Yong, En Koh Swee Hyong, Naib YDP PIBG, Ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa PIBG, para Ibu Bapa, Guru-Guru yang saya hormati, para graduan, pelajar-pelajar SMKTD, tuan-tuan dan puan-puan sekalian.

A very good morning to all of you.

First of all I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to the Principal, Mr Gan Peng Kheang, for having invited my friends and I to join all of you on this memorable and historical occasion - the first Graduation Day Ceremony of SMKTD. My name is Leong Von Hoe, and I graduated from SMKTD way back in 1994. To be exact - 15 years ago. Pn Chua Seaw Hua, *Guru Kanan Sains* was our Physics teacher & Pn Rosytaa bt. Mohd Apandi the *Guru Kanan Kemanusiaan*, was teaching us History then. I graduated from University Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) in 1999, majoring in Petroleum Engineering and I obtained my MBA from UPM in 2005. Presently I am attached to Desmet Ballestra, a company dealing with vegetable oil processing technology, where I am the Area Manager.

Now, I would like to introduce to you a few former students of SMKTD who are present here today. We have Ms. Lee Siau Tung. She was one of the top students during our time. She scored 9A's in her SPM examination & 4A's in STPM. She is a graduate of University Malaya. The gentleman next to her is Tan Jiann Shin. He was the Head Prefect of SMKTD in 1994 yes...15 years ago and his name is listed on the roll of honour of past Head Prefects, which is now displayed in this Arena Wira ... right behind you. Tan Jiann Shin obtained his degree in Computer Science from UPM & his Masters Degree from University Malaya. Next, we have Mr. Vincent Mok. He graduated from Charles Sturt University Australia majoring in Accounting and is presently holding a key position in Standard Chartered Bank as the Head of Risk Analytics. We also have Mr Richard Lu Kok Mun. He was the Head Prefect in 1982. He was one of SMKTD's pioneer students when the school was established in 1981. Now he is a very successful businessman in property development, with a few in-house companies doing bridge structure and the construction of high rise buildings.

Today, we are here to congratulate all of you, our juniors, for successfully completing your secondary education and also to say a few words of encouragement.

Dear Juniors,

Please work hard and prepare well to face the upcoming SPM & STPM Exams. It is our sincere hope that you will be able to achieve good results in your exams which will pave the way for tertiary education, be it in a college or university.

Please do not give up whatever the circumstances may be. I scored A's in all of my Science subjects in the SPM Exam but only a C6 in Bahasa Malaysia. However, I still managed to get into UTM and two years ago, I successfully completed my MBA in UPM.

I know of a classmate who used to sleep a lot in the class. However, when he went to college, he graduated with first class honours and now he is working with

INTEL , a company dealing with computing and communications industries. I also have another classmate who decided not to continue his studies after his Form5 but decided to work. However, after few years of working he eventually decided to pursue his studies in a private college and obtained his degree. He is now attached to SHELL Malaysia as an IT specialist.

Dear Juniors,

The point I am trying to make here is **NOT** that you should sleep in class or start working directly after your Form 5 in order to be guaranteed a bright future. Instead , I am trying to emphasize that, it is never too late for you to work hard in order to achieve your dreams and goals in life. Yes, as long as you are willing to work hard, you can be successful in all your future undertakings!

I would like to quote an excerpt from a poem by the famous poet, Longfellow:

*The heights by great men reached and kept,
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.*

Last but not least, to all graduating students seated here today, do not forget this school after your graduation and exams. You should visit SMKTD often and always offer your help when the school needs you. It would be an enriching experience for you and it would provide you with an opportunity to keep in touch with your teachers and friends. In fact, the graduating class of 1994 is going to have a grand reunion in this Arena Wira at the end of this month. Thank you Mr Gan for your consent and support.

All the very best once again in the upcoming public exams. Remember,

“Dare to struggle and dare to win”. Thank you.

Steven Leong Von Hoe,

Alumnus from the Graduating Class of 1994