This evening, we are witnessing a significant event in the short history of the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School.

The magnificent gift of S$80 million to the GMS by the Estate of Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat is indeed a most generous gesture and a strong endorsement of support for Singapore’s second medical school.

I would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Khoo family for choosing the GMS as one of your privileged beneficiaries, and continuing the vision of the late Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat in supporting deserving causes and contributing to society.

Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat was a man well-known for his vision. As a pioneer in the fledgling financial services in the early 60's, especially consumer banking, he built up an impressive business conglomerate that now includes the hospitality services and real estate.

A champion of philanthropic causes, Tan Sri Khoo donated very generously to biomedical research, healthcare, education, community outreach programmes and organisations that look after the less fortunate in the community. He can be counted amongst those who made significant contributions to our country’s charitable and voluntary welfare organisations.

Tan Sri Khoo is also remembered as a very humble and caring person who treated everyone equally and kindly, irrespective of status or standing. A private man, he was well-loved and respected by his family and staff, and held in the highest regard by his friends and peers.

His advice to business associates and friends had always been that “there is no secret to success – just hard work and effort”. He also believed that an achievement is not just an end in itself but a milestone to greater things. This guiding philosophy, coupled with a keen business acumen, saw him attain one remarkable achievement after another throughout his lifetime. He has left a lasting legacy and there is still much we can all learn from him.

This evening, I take this opportunity to remember and pay tribute to the late Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat for his extraordinary vision and efforts in enriching the lives
of so many in our society through education, research, healthcare and community support.

I would also like to thank everyone here, especially the staff of GMS, who have worked very hard in making the GMS a reality and laying the foundation of a truly outstanding institution.

Finally, I would like to propose a toast to the Khoo Estate in continuing the legacy of the late Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat.

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