

Speech by Inche Buang bin Omar Junid, Parliamentary Secretary,
(Social Affairs), on the Occasion of the Presentation of
\$12,049 by the Singapore Professional Artistes Association to
the Sports Promotion Fund, on Thursday, 16th January, 1969,
at 12 noon at the Ministry of Social Affairs
Conference Room

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am happy to be here this morning to receive a donation of \$12,049 from the Singapore Professional Artistes Association which is the result of a Variety Show held on 14th October, 1968, at the National Theatre to raise funds for the promotion of sports in Singapore.

2. As you all know, the promotion of sports requires money. There is the expenditure on food and on transport, the expenditure on equipment and proper clothing. Also, there is the cost of passages whenever a team ventures outside the Republic for the purpose of competing in sports and games hoping to improve the image of the Republic. Without sufficient funds, the activities of any sporting organisation must be curtailed, and we must do all that we can so as not to allow this state of affairs to come about.

3. Sports is today an important factor in this period of the history of Singapore. The accent is undoubtedly on sports and we are starting at the level which will create a sound foundation towards healthy nation-building, that is, we are starting in the schools. We hope that with the right spirit infused in the younger generation, Singapore will soon go forth in the sporting field, beyond the shores of our Republic, and bring back laurels of an international status.

4. There are many factors that contribute towards building of a healthy, vigorous and intelligent nation, and perhaps amongst these sports is the most easily acceptable; if you can play while you build, then I do not see anyone who can conscientiously object to this factor of nation-building. I recommend to you one and all as your national duty, to support sports in every way you can, and particularly from the financial point of view.

5. I wish now to thank the Singapore Professional Artistes Association, on behalf of this Ministry, for their generous donation of \$12,049 to the Sports Promotion Fund.