

Speech by Inche Buang bin Omar Junid, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs, at the Singapore Tenpin Bowling Congress 1st International Bowling Championships on 17th August, 1969 at 4.30 p.m.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Singapore Tenpin Bowling Congress 1st International Bowling Championships, incorporating the 5th National Championships, has been the biggest ever tournament organised by the Singapore Tenpin Bowling Congress. This event held during the Pesta Sukan Minggu Merdeka evidenced the excellent programme the Congress has offered to bowling enthusiasts in the Republic. Champion Bowlers from the neighbouring countries have competed in these Championships and their presence in the tournament has certainly lent colour and excitement. This is definitely a good sign for all bowlers and our competitors would have gained a lot by competing with their friends from overseas.

2. I am told that the Singapore Tenpin Bowling Congress has spared no efforts in trying to improve and raise the standard of bowling in the Republic. This is a laudable effort considering that the sport is relatively new to Singapore. It has however grown in popularity at a very rapid pace essentially because it is a sport which can be played by young and old at any time of the day to suit the individual's convenience. The victory of Mr. S.P. Loh at the C.P.A./Brunswick Far East Bowling Championships held on 5th and 6th July, 1969, where he emerged overall champion over participants from nine Asian nations is testimony enough of the standard of bowling in Singapore. In time to come, I am sure we will be able to produce more players who can compete with the best at international bowling competitions.

3. Sports, as we all know, contribute not only to the harmonious development of mind and body and to the building of a cohesive society in a country but also to promoting international goodwill and peace. In this respect, the Singapore Tenpin Bowling Congress is performing a useful function by bringing about people of many races to fraternize on an equal basis, and inculcating in them the sense of fair play and sportsmanship. Many lasting friendships must have been made and many more will be made when bowlers can get again together more frequently at friendly competitions. This will of course, have to depend greatly on the

initiative of the organising bodies in the respective countries. The lead that has been taken by the Singapore Tenpin Bowling Congress in organising this Championship should serve as a prelude to more competitions of the same nature in this sport.

4. May I congratulate the officials of the Congress for putting up this successful Championship. I would also like to compliment the competitors for their participation and congratulate the winners for their performance.

5. I now have great pleasure in declaring closed the 1st International Bowling Championships.