

Speech by Cho. Buang bin Omar Junid,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of  
Social Affairs, on 20th September,  
1969 at 7.30 p.m. at the Singapore  
Badminton Hall.

Mr. President,  
Ladies & Gentlemen,

My Ministry is indeed glad that the Singapore Malay Badminton Association, has responded to Inche Othman bin Wok, Minister for Social Affairs' advice to throw open this year's tournament to badminton players of all races. I am informed that the tournament has been well received and its success is mainly due to the participation of badminton players of all nationalities.

2. The Government is keen to promote badminton in Singapore. This is a game which we can strive for international honours. Together with Malaya, we had been able to win the Thomas Cup and our champions had contributed towards the past victories.

3. As you are aware, the Singapore National Badminton Team lost in the Thomas Cup competition in the Australian zone. We must now prepare for the next Thomas Cup Competition in 1972/1973. Our defeat by the New Zealanders has shown that our standard of play is not up to expectation. Our young players must work harder and have continuous, vigorous training. More competitions and tournaments must be staged to give our players experience and opportunities to acquire match skill and temperament.

4. By staging this Tournament, your Association gave players an opportunity to prove themselves and an opportunity to gain experience. I am sure, after this year's tournament, your Association will continue to sponsor next year's tournament on a bigger scale. I should like, in closing, to thank all officials of the Singapore Malay Badminton Association for their hard work, devotion to the game and the interest taken in badminton. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the winners and advise the losers to train harder so that they may be successful in future tournaments.