

PRESS RELEASE:

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**SPEECH BY INCHE MOHD. GHAZALI ISMAIL,
POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION, AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING OF THE SINGAPORE COMBINED
SCHOOLS SPORTS COUNCILS ON WEDNESDAY,
14.1.1970 AT 9.30 A.M. AT VICTORIA SCHOOL.**

Ladies & Gentlemen,

A decade has gone by since the inception of the Schools Sports Councils at the national and district levels. We now move into the next decade of active sports promotion in schools and we are here, this morning, to elect the office bearers for the two Councils - namely the Primary & Secondary Schools Sports Councils - for 1970.

We are slowly accepting the idea that Physical Education as a subject has to be taught by teachers who are biased or inclined towards teaching the subject. Those who have undergone courses held by the ECAC and those who have majored in P.E. from the Teachers Training College must be fully utilized to teach Physical Education. Games skills become interesting when taught by teachers who have been trained to teach these skills. The basic foundation should be laid in P.E. lessons with skills teaching and games situations with analysis of tactics in a given situation. We should not allow our P.E. lessons to be dominated by mere mass drill or foot-drill.

Properly organised P.E. lessons should be followed up with the training of the talented pupils by the various games masters. Training here will not only have to be a regular weekly affair but it will have to be conducted on a all-the-year round basis to ensure standards that are reasonably high. This aspect of coaching and training calls for a high sense of dedication and application on the part of the teacher concerned in any game he or she may be in charge of.

Next, the student population of the school must be organised to attend matches, to cheer and to support their school. It must also be ensured that sportsmanship prevails amongst both the competitors and spectators.

It is through vigorous extra curricular activities such as these where competitions and contests are possible that pride is felt in the athletic prowess of the school by the student population.

It is when such extra curricular activity begins to form the corporate lives of the pupils in schools that the student population begins to feel for the school. This is when there is a tone in the school; this is when there is a wider purpose in school for the teachers and pupils.

I make the point studiously and pointedly for, we are sometimes in danger of wanting to participate for the sake of participation so that an account can be given that we have participated and in the process neglecting the wider purpose of such education.

Once again we in the schools feel that outside organisations should have workable schemes for attracting school leavers to their fold so that this talent is not wasted. This waste is now happening on such a big scale that it is causing concern. It is true that in other countries in Asia where outside voluntary organisations cannot and will not provide facilities for youngsters their own standards have fallen. Also, since this situation normally results in poor "feeding" of material for national teams, the clubs forfeit their positions of importance in this respect and invariably the police and the Armed Forces will be forced into the situation to provide the answer by building their own nurseries to provide material for national teams. We are now in this twilight zone and there is the danger that the voluntary organisations will abdicate their responsibility simply because thinking on such matters is almost absent. To make matters worse, some sports organisations are trying to duplicate schools activities by organising similar competitions. This can prove an over-load on the students.

We welcome co-operation in these matters with the staff at the ECAC and the TTC.

Also, we welcome the call by the Minister of Social Affairs for all round improvement and we assure him of our fullest support. Our Councils are highly organised for long term planning and we will be able to answer the call as we have done in the past.

The Minister is pleased to announce the appointment of:

- Mrs. Sato Sim Chuan*
- (a) ~~Brother Emmanuel~~ as Chairman of the Primary Schools Sports Council.
 - (b) Miss Tan Sock Kern as Chairman of the Secondary Schools Sports Council.
 - (c) Miss E. Norris as Chairman of the Physical Education Advisory Committee.

Finally, I wish to congratulate the Chairmen and members of the outgoing Councils for their sterling work and to wish the incoming Council every success for the coming year.
