

PRESS RELEASE:

SPEECH BY INCHE MOHD. GHAZALI ISMAIL,
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION, AT THE SINGAPORE TELEPHONE
BOARD SPORTS CLUB NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION
DINNER AT STAFF RECREATION CENTRE, S.T.B.
KAMPONG AMPAT MACPHERSON ROAD ON SATURDAY
22.8.1970 AT 8.00 P.M.

Sports is an integral part of our life in Singapore, seen by the fact that the daily newspapers devote 2 to 3 pages a day on this subject. It helps build mind and body and competitive spirit in camaraderie and also boosts morale and usefully occupy leisure in pleasure amongst people, especially amongst staff in any big organisation.

Organised sports should, therefore, be readily encouraged and even financially supported in big institutions which employ large numbers of people, as in the case of the Singapore Telephone Board. I understand that the Board employs over 2,000 persons and it is reassuring to see that besides doing an excellent job in its primary responsibility in providing the essential public utility of telephones for the people, the Board also attaches great importance to its staff welfare and promotion of organised sports for its employees. It is, indeed, creditable for the staff to have shown up so well in competitive games, especially in soccer and tabletennis, having won the Government Services Football League and the F.A.S. Division II League in football.

Sports is the best form of recreational activity and pastime, both for players as well as officials and supporters. It keeps so many busy and happy.

Employers should, therefore, give every assistance possible and it speaks of enlightened management to provide such support.

I understand that your Sports Club would like to do more but is handicapped by funds and also a permanent Sports Club and facilities for indoor and outdoor sports regularly. Their problem is made worse by their membership being automatically open to all employees of the Board without subscription dues. I suggest for the consideration of both the Board as well as employees that on the one hand the Board gives recognition for supporting prowess and

substantial financial assistance for sporting needs of the staff on an annual and regular basis and the employees on the other hand contributing their own dues by way of reasonable membership fees and spectator support in return for the privileges and pleasures derived.

Having done so well so far, I am sure the Board and the Sports Club will respond further to their mutual requirements in their mutual interests and in the best interests of sports and recreation in Singapore and they will set the lead and the example for other Statutory Boards and big organisations in the private sector to follow. Monies spent in sports facilities and promotion are in the long run the best investment for staff welfare, happiness and goodwill.

This is a National Day Dinner and it is commendable that members of your Sports Club have chosen to remember and to celebrate National Day in this manner, since it is an occasion equally meaningful to all of us in Singapore.

I thank the Sports Club for having invited me and wish the members all success in their future endeavours,
