

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

FO:JUN/29/75(3A)

Speech by Encik Othman Wok, Minister for
Social Affairs, at the Presentation Ceremony
of the Esso Sports Scholar Awards at the
Conference Room, National Stadium on
24 Jun 75 at 10.30 am

Mr Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen

I am happy this morning to meet the winners of the Esso Sports Scholar Awards and also those responsible for the creation of these awards.

2 The purpose of the award is to provide financial grants to sportsmen and sportswomen who are pursuing post-secondary education in pre-university classes, junior colleges, the Singapore Polytechnic, the Ngee Ann College and the Singapore Technical Institute. It will help students to continue participating in sports and games and encouraging them to attain better standards of performance.

3 The creation of the Esso Sports Scholar Award is most timely. It certainly provides a fillip to the development of sports in the Republic. This new award is significant in three ways. First, the award gives due recognition to those who excel

in sports. Second, it provides an incentive for students to perform well in both academic and sporting pursuits. Third, it assists students to overcome financial problems which might otherwise hinder their studies.

4 The influence of sports on personality development has been studied by researchers in recent years. There is now considerable evidence that those engaged in sports tend to be more energetic and tougher than those who shy away from sports. Sportsmen have the verve and vitality as well as the stamina and willingness to work hard to excel, and in most cases enjoy competition. Research studies have also shown that sportsmen possess the ability to maintain poise under pressure. All these qualities are characteristics of a well-adjusted individual with the verve and stamina to succeed in life.

5 Our educational curriculum gives emphasis to both sports and academic excellence because we realise the importance of building well-rounded citizens who are physically strong and intellectually bright. There is time for academic studies as well as physical activities, and students should plan their programme

to accommodate both these interests in order to ensure their full development. Achievements in sports and studies are equally rewarding, and students who can shine in both these spheres of endeavour are indeed worthy of recognition. They are the young people who will have much to contribute towards the progress and betterment of our society.

6 The Esso Sports Scholar Award is a fine scheme of assistance for those who have shown promise in their sporting and scholastic pursuits. I hope more public-spirited firms will take the cue from Esso and come forward to establish sports scholar awards for different age groups and levels of education. There is certainly room for more scholarships of this nature to encourage greater participation in sports amongst our youths, and to assist the deserving students who may need support to continue with their studies and sporting activities.

7 This year, nine boys and a girl have been selected for the Esso Sports Scholar Awards. They have all achieved high scholastic standards, and in addition they have also represented either the Republic or the Singapore Combined Schools in sports.

I am sure the awards will be put to good use by the successful candidates for their educational and sporting requirements.

8 I would like to join all of you who are present here to congratulate the winners on their success and to wish them the very best for the future.

.....