

EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY

SPEECH BY TUAN HAJI SHA'ARI TADIN, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY (CULTURE), AT THE OPENING OF PESTA MUSIC 1975
BY KAKI BUKIT PRIMARY SCHOOL, JALAN TABAH, SINGAPORE 14
ON SATURDAY, 30 AUG 75, AT 8.30 AM

It gives me great pleasure to be here this morning to officiate at the opening ceremony of this year's PESTA MUSIC organised by Kaki Bukit Primary School.

I was highly impressed by the scope of extra-curricular activities at this school, particularly the music programmes which have won the school fame and recognition because of its great achievements. The school's Orchestra won the championship of the 1974 Inter-Primary School Instrumental Competition. In this year's Youth Festival, the school Brass Band was selected as one of the ten top bands at the Inter-Primary School Bands competition. All these remarkable achievements are the results of hardwork and cooperation among teachers and pupils of this school. I would like to congratulate them for their magnificent performance and remarkable achievement.

Nowadays there is a tendency in Singapore for schools to place great emphasis on the examination results of their students. No doubt, examination results do reflect the standard of a school, but I think there are other equally important elements which deserve the attention of the school. In my opinion, the most important role of the school, besides imparting knowledge to the students, is to train them to become useful citizens. In order to build a rugged society, we have introduced various extra-curricular activities in our schools to keep our young people physically fit and mentally healthy. However, keeping a fit and healthy body is not enough. Students must also be given appropriate lessons on civics so that when they grow up, they are able to differentiate what is good and what is bad. Moreover, principals and teachers should discourage their students from imitating the life style of the West. For instance, we should not allow students to sport long hair in schools. Singapore is a tropical country with high temperature throughout the year. There is no reason for our people, especially our students, to

to sport long hair. In this connection, I would like to appeal to our parents to play a more active role in educating their children. If our parents condone the misbehaviour and anti-social activities of their children, there is very little that school principals and teachers can do. I stress this simply because human resources are the only resources that Singapore has and we cannot afford to waste our manpower resources in an irresponsible way.

Today's presentation is the result of six months' training and discipline. I was told that more than 2,000 pupils took part in this fund-raising project and they all work very hard to make this project a success. I was also told that the school has implemented to Music for Everyone project for its students. This is a worthy project, no doubt an ambitious one, which I think deserves every support by the parents and well-wishers of the school. I am confident, judging from today's response, that the school will succeed in this project.

I congratulate the Kaki Bukit Primary School for its efforts in organising this music festival and have great pleasure in declaring this PESTA MUSIC open.

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