

Speech by Encik Othman Wok, Minister for Social Affairs, at the Opening Ceremony of the Othman Wok Netball Challenge Cup Tournament to be held at the Pasir Panjang Community Centre on 5 Jun 76 at 7.30 pm

Ladies & Gentlemen

I congratulate the Women's Sub-Committee of this Community Centre for being the first Women's Sub-Committee in Singapore to form a netball team. The team has already shown their strength in the 1975 Singapore Netball Association Netball League by emerging as the champion team in the 4th Division. The organisation of this Netball Tournament will help to strengthen the team further and to promote netball in the Republic.

2 Altogether seven netball teams will participate in the Tournament which will stretch for about one month. This response is encouraging, and indicates a growing interest in sports amongst our women. The role of sports in building up a healthy body and mind is now widely accepted by both young and old, and more people from all walks of life are beginning to adopt some form of sports for physical activity and recreation. For the ladies, there is certainly no better way of keeping trim and attractive than through participation in sports.

3 In addition to its important role of raising the standard of physical fitness of our population, organised sports will also contribute towards a better community life. Sports bring players into frequent contact with each other, and help to foster friendship among those who share a common interest. By participating in sports we improve our skills, and also broaden our experience and outlook through social contacts with others.

I am pleased to note that sporting activities have been stepped up at all levels in the community, and I hope the managements of community centres and other organisations will continue to give generous support to the promotion of sports in the Republic.

I commend the women's Sub-Committee of the Pasir Panjang Community Centre for their initiative in organising this Netball Tournament. I am sure the Committee has put in much time and effort for this Tournament, and I would like to wish them every success in carrying out the project.

5 And now it gives me great pleasure to declare the Netball Tournament open.

6 Thank you,
