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**SPEECH BY MR HO KAH LEONG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY  
SECRETARY (EDUCATION), AT THE BUKIT TIMAH  
DISTRICT PRIMARY SCHOOLS SPORTS COUNCIL  
2ND COMBINED PRIZE PRESENTATION AT THE DELTA  
SPORTS COMPLEX ON SATURDAY 24 AUGUST 1985 AT 9.00 AM**

I must thank the Chairman and Committee members of the Bukit Timah District Sports Council for giving me the opportunity of being with you this morning. It is always an important occasion to me to be given the opportunity to speak to the young people of Singapore because in you rests the future of our country. Our country will only have a bright future if our young people like all of you are given the right education and training, because human resource is the only resource that Singapore has.

Apart from your academic pursuit, have you ever thought why the Ministry of Education considers ECA important? Shouldn't your time after school be spent in doing homework and learning lessons? Why do we take the trouble to have school, district and national sports activities? If your answer is that playing a game gives you a healthy recreational activity, you are partly right. You will also be partly right if you say that playing a game gives you a healthy body and your mind will function more effectively in a healthy body. However, there is something more in this which helps you in your character formation. When you play a team game, you will be learning team work. You will learn to put the interest of the team before your own interest. If you are in a position to shoot for goal but a team mate is in a better position, you should pass the ball to him for the sake of the team. You will learn that being a member of a team also means that any unsportsmanship behaviour or dirty tactics that you use will

bring dishonour not only to you but also to your team and your school as well. Being part of a school team, your coach will teach you to play hard and to give your best but I am sure he will also teach you how to play a fair game according to the rules and regulations. Above all, you will learn the most important lesson of all and that is, it is not winning the game that matters but how you win it.

If, by the time you leave school and start to work or go to do your National Service, you have learnt all the lessons through team games and other ECAs, then you would have learnt to be a good team worker in your work place, putting the interest of the team before self. You would have learnt to work and live according to the accepted rules of your workplace and laws of Singapore. You would have learnt that in your efforts to succeed, you should work hard but not to be dishonourable, for that will bring shame not only to you and your family but to your old school and your present unit as well. You would have learnt that in life, it is not how successful you become that is important but how you live your life. Last but not least, you would have learnt to be the kind of citizen that Singapore wants.

It now only leaves me to congratulate the boys and girls who have won prizes today and also the Chairman and Committee members of Bukit Timah District Sports Council for their effort in organizing these activities.

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