

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC.FE.2/64 (HEALTH)

TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MR.
YONG NYUK LIN, AT THE FIRST LUCKY DRAW FOR BLOOD
DONORS FOR JANUARY 1964 AT THE BLOOD TRANSFUSION
CENTRE ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, AT 10 A.M.

Today's function is unique in that it is the first time that a lucky draw for blood donors has been organised.

Last year, our Ministry successfully organised a team competition for the recruitment of blood donors with substantial cash prizes each month kindly donated by the Singapore Turf Club. As a result of this last year we received 15,649 blood donations representing an increase of 10.3 per cent over 1962.

Yet this is insufficient to meet all the requirements of our surgeons and doctors. Although in 1963 we had to resort to only one urgent appeal over radio and Press due to an acute shortage of blood, there were however a number of occasions during the year when important though less urgent operations had to be postponed temporarily until the stocks in our blood bank improved so as to meet the pressing demands.

It is our hope that with our new lucky draw monthly competition, we can attain, either a monthly target of 2,000 per month or 20,000 donations a year so that our surgeons and doctors can have all the blood they require "on tap" as it were, to carry on their great work of saving lives in Singapore.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the sponsors of the many prizes made available for today's draw. In particular, I would like to thank our national airline - Malaysian Airways and our old stalwarts, the Singapore Turf Club, for undertaking to donate valuable prizes for the full 12 months of our lucky draw competition. I hope that more commercial organisation will come forward in support in like manner to make our Blood Bank the success it deserves.

I would also like to record my highest appreciation of the excellent work being done by the staff, doctors and nurses of our Blood Transfusion Service. In particular, the laboratory technicians, whose devotion to duty makes it possible for us to provide a 24 hour laboratory service, thus bringing back life, health and happiness to many a patient admitted as an emergency case to our hospitals.

In conclusion, I would like to end by appealing to every adult member of our community to resolve to support our Blood Bank for 1964 and at the same time win a prize. Now, over to our four charming nurses to determine the lucky winners for January.

FEBRUARY 1, 1964.

(Time issued: 1330 hours)