

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

MC.OC.32/64(ISTANA)

TEXT OF SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE YANG
DI-PERTUAN NEGARA, TUN YUSOF BIN ISHAK, AT
THE 14TH ANNUAL FIRST AID COMPETITION OF
THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE, BEACH ROAD,
ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, AT 3 P.M.

I am very happy to be here this evening at the 14th Annual First Aid Competition of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. We have just witnessed the excellent displays of First Aid, Stretcher Drill and Foot Drill, and I take this opportunity to congratulate the winning teams and all those who took part in them on the smartness of their appearance and the high standard of efficiency with which they carried out their work this evening.

The Brigade has rendered valuable service to the people of Singapore by its selfless humanitarian work. The members are bound together by their one common desire to help their fellow-men. That they have fulfilled this purpose is shown by the record of public duty hours they did last year. It is very gratifying to know that there is a large organisation whose members are constantly on duty and who are always available for any emergency.

There is, however, no limit to the skill and efficiency in the field of First Aid. Friendly competitions like the one we have just witnessed give great opportunity for you to improve your skill even more. This is the real aim of the competition. It is not merely to see which area wins; because you have all done well. In this period of national emergency it is more than ever necessary that your efficiency should be kept up to the highest pitch. Your practical knowledge and training must be there ready for use when the time comes for you to serve your country.

My special congratulation goes to the Adult Ambulance Champion team who won the honour of representing Singapore in the Pan-Malayan Competition next year. I wish them success in that competition.

I would like to remark here that I have been impressed by the esprit de corps that exists among the officers of different races in St. John's. This is most commendable and so essential for the successful working of the Ambulance Brigade.

Before I conclude, I should like to say a special word of thanks to all members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade for the keenness and enthusiasm with which they go about their duties and their very high standard of training. On behalf of myself and my wife, I would like to say how much we have enjoyed being with you this evening.

OCTOBER 18, 1964.

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