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SPEECH BY CIK MAWAN WAJID KHAL, PRESIDENT, SIGLAP WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, AT THE DINNER & DANCE ORGANISED BY THE SIGLAP WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN AID OF THE SINGAPORE NATIONAL HEART ASSOCIATION AT THE NEPTUNE THEATRE RESTAURANT ON SATURDAY, 11 MAY 1974 AT 8.00 P.M.

I wish to thank each and every one present tonight for responding to our invitation to this dinner. On behalf of the Siglap Women's Association, may I extend to you a most heart welcome. Most of you have made generous donations to the Singapore National Heart Association for which tonight's function is organised. On behalf of the Siglap Women's Association, I wish to record our deepest gratitude to you - the donors.

As an organisation comprising wives and women, my committee felt several months ago that it would be good to carry out this project of raising funds for the National Heart Association. As wives, we are naturally concerned about our husbands' state of health. Non-career wives who are housewives have a particular vested interest in our husbands' survival. We had hoped that this dinner would not only raise funds for the National Heart Association but also bring about greater awareness of the causes, prevention and other aspects of heart diseases, particularly coronary artery disease.

It is sheer coincidence that the incidence of heart disease in our society is higher amongst men than it is amongst women. One possible reason is that apart from the natural process of the hardening of the arteries men as breadwinners in the family have to face problems in their professions, vocations and businesses besides overcoming some occupational hazards. Over and above these, they have to shoulder the responsibility of looking after their wives and the education and general well-being of their children.

As wives, we are also concerned about another kind of heart condition which sometimes afflict our husbands. I hasten to add that some wives sometimes also suffer from this kind of heart disease. But I can assure you that this kind of heart trouble which our husbands and other men might go through has nothing whatsoever to do with this dinner for the National Heart Association. If at all, the source of this particular brand of heart ailment can often be found in women themselves. So is the remedy. The patient who suffers this kind of heart disease certainly does not need the expert services of a cardiologist.

The entire proceeds of this collection will be donated to the Singapore National Heart Association to carry out its objectives.