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SPEECH BY MR CHAN CHEE SENG, SR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(SOCIAL AFFAIRS), AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE  
6TH ANNUAL SPORTS MEET OF THE HANDICAPPED ON 7 OCT 78  
AT 2.00 PM AT TOA PAYAH ATHLETIC STADIUM

I am very pleased to be invited to your 6th Annual Sports Meet and to officially declare open this championship.

Sports and physical recreation today has assumed a significant and important role in our modern society. It has become a matter of daily and absorbing interest to hundreds of millions of people throughout the world.

You, the athletes gathered here this afternoon are no exceptions. I am sure that you must have trained hard to be able to reach this level of competition. I would like to compliment you on your perseverance, courage, stamina and ability to sustain your interests in the field of sports against enormous odds.

It is also heartening to note that many of you present here today took part in the recently concluded Pesta Sukan Mass Walk, Mass Jog and Mass Swim events. It means that you have realised the importance of participating on equal terms with other able-bodied persons and accepted the challenge. This is a step in the right direction as one should not remain in one's cloistered world. I do hope that more of you would venture forth and participate in those events which are outside the purview of your sports council. In this way you will be able to show to society at large that despite your physical difficulties you are not a burden to anyone if you have the will to succeed.

At this juncture, I must congratulate the members of your sports council on the fine show today and the efficient organisation of the meet. I am also happy to note that your council has planned to organise table tennis and swimming competitions for the first time to meet your various

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and different needs and interests.

It is now left for me to say that I hope you will all participate fully for the glory of sports and in the true spirit of brotherhood and sportsmanship.

I now declare the 6th Annual Sports Meet open.

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