

1 OCT 1981

# Singapore Government **PRESS RELEASE**

Information Division, Ministry of Culture, City Hall, Singapore 0617 • tel: 3378191 ext. 352, 353, 354/3362207/3362271

16-3/81/10/01

NARC

|    |      |    |
|----|------|----|
| 81 | 0060 | 55 |
|----|------|----|

SPEECH BY MR TEO CHONG TEE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(SOCIAL AFFAIRS) AND MP FOR CHANGI, AT THE SEA CARNIVAL-  
CUM-EXPOSITION ORGANISED BY THE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION  
ADVENTURE CLUB AT CHANGI POINT ON SUNDAY, OCT. 4, 1981, AT 9 A.M.

Singaporeans are fortunate to have easy access to the sea for indulgence in sea-sports. Besides the many beaches and swimming lagoons on the main island, there are a number of outlying islets which have beautiful beaches. The seas around us are generally calm and suitable for canoeing, sailing, wind-surfing, water-skiing and related activities. For the veteran or the more adventurous, the seas off the neighbouring countries offer many excellent and exciting havens for scuba-diving, spear-fishing etc.

Despite all these favourable conditions, sea-sports in general do not enjoy wide popularity among our people. Some sea-sports, eg yachting, motor-boating and skiing are expensive. Only the well-to-do or executives may be able to indulge in them. However, there are many activities which are relatively cheap to participate in and are within the reach of the majority of our people. Yet these also attract only a small following. It is probably that our people do not have a tradition and spirit of sea-faring, and that they prefer land-based activities to sea-sports.

The People's Association Adventure Club, and other similar organisations play a significant role in popularising sea activities among the people, especially the man-in-the street. I am happy to note that you have, since your inception in 1974, successfully promoted canoeing and dragon-boat racing among a large number of youths. Your good organisation and the low fees which you levied for these activities have made it possible that any interested person need not be excluded from these sports because of financial reasons.

In this time and age of energy crisis, your club should continue to help popularise those sea-sports which do not consume petrol, but at the same time provide fun and good exercise to the participants. Apart from canoeing and dragon boating which you have already achieved

considerable success, ...2/-

considerable success, I see a great potential in wind-surfing and sailing. I note that you are branching into these two activities, but they form a relatively small part of your programme. I hope to see more of your members participating in them in the future.

Besides catering to the interest of your members you can perhaps, within the limitation of your resources, help promote sea-sports by making available your facilities to members of other sports clubs during the sessions not used by your members. You can also provide instructors to other clubs, or conduct courses for members of the public. This will enable you to maximise your resources. Of course this will entail careful planning and good co-ordination with other sports bodies or interested organisations, but the effort is worthwhile.

The organisation of this sea carnival-cum-exposition is one good way to arouse the people's interest in sea-sports. I congratulate you for your initiative and wish you success in your future endeavours.

---