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SPEECH BY MR TEO CHONG TEE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY (SOCIAL AFFAIRS), AT
THE LAUNCHING OF CHARITY QUEST CONTEST 1982 AT HOTEL ROYAL (EMPEROR'S
ROOM) ON SATURDAY, 13 MARCH 1982 AT 3.00 PM

It is indeed a pleasure to be here this afternoon to officiate at the 10th Annual Charity Quest Contest organised by the Spastic Children's Association in conjunction with the Lions Club of Singapore (Host) and the Lionese Club of Singapore (City).

For those of you who are not strangers to the Charity Quest Contest, I am glad to see your continued support. The Charity Quest Contest is a major annual project of the Association. A record amount of \$238,000 was raised last year. The organisers are confident that they can raise an equal, or bigger, amount this year. I would like to urge every concerned person to give this year's contest his fullest support.

The Association has been active in raising funds to provide education and welfare services for the benefit of the spastic children. It now operates a day school for 154 students, and a rehabilitation centre which provides occupational, physio and speech therapy under the guidance of trained therapists and volunteers. Its welfare services include case-work, job placement and transportation for children who have difficulty in commuting between their homes and the day school. It is heartening to see the concern and interest shown by organisers, sponsors, donors, volunteers and hardworking members of the Appeals Committee who have put in unstinting efforts.

One noteworthy contribution by the Association in 1981, the International Year of Disabled Persons, was the organisation of the First Western Pacific Cerebral Palsy Association Meeting to provide a forum for discussion and sharing of ideas on care of the spastics among professionals and those in related fields as well as parents. Overseas

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participants were drawn from the Philippines, Australia, Thailand, South Korea, Japan, United Kingdom and Indonesia.

The Association should be congratulated for taking this initiative to provide the much needed professionalism in the field of rehabilitation of the cerebral palsy and it is my hope that it will continue to provide the leadership.

One deserving and worthwhile project to be undertaken by the Association is the proposed setting up of a Day Care Centre for spastic children in the Association's premises at Gilstead Road. The idea was derived from the finding of a Survey carried out last year by the Parents' Sub-Committee which revealed that such a facility is a desirable and necessary support to parents of spastic children. Besides being a respite for parents, I would like to see the proposed Day Care Centre providing suitable programmes which cater to the developmental needs of the children, as early intervention is crucial in the rehabilitation of a disabled child.

Parental involvement is essential in any rehabilitation programme. I understand that sixty percent of the parents interviewed during the Survey expressed a desire to receive some training in therapy which will help them to better cope with their disabled children. I would like to urge the Association to follow up on their request.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the organisers for their efforts in organising this Contest, and to wish the contestants all the best in their endeavours to raise funds for the Association. I am confident that the funds raised will be put to good use not only for the recurrent expenditure of the Association but also for initiating innovative programmes for the spastics as a whole.

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