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**SPEECH BY MR TEO CHONG TEE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
(ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS), AT THE LAUNCHING
CEREMONY OF THE SSC/FAS/MILO SOCCER SCHOOL AT THE
NATIONAL STADIUM THEATRETTE ON SATURDAY
10 MARCH 1984 AT 11.00 AM**

I am delighted to be present here today to witness another important milestone in the Youth Development of soccer in Singapore. The launching of this ambitious scheme, which caters for the Under-11, Under-13, Under-15, Under-18 and Under-19, spells great hope for soccer in Singapore. Very often, we have to scratch the bottom of the barrel in the National League, clubs and schools to identify potential players and groom them instantly for the national team. Very recently, this is exactly what we did with A R J Mani and V Sundramoorthy who were discovered in the Singapore Asian Schools team last year.

The new SSC/FAS/MILO Soccer School is a re-organisation of resources such as schools, clubs, SSC and FAS and their roles in Youth Football Development. It is a new format allowing the scheme to assemble all talented potential under one umbrella. It would enable a smooth transition from developing and assembling a youth team to participate in various youth international tournaments to recruiting players into the National Squads. This calls for a collective effort on the part of all those who are involved, to put their shoulders to the wheel to ensure that the new School will be a resounding success. The title of this School should not convey the impression that it is a closed circuit of soccer training. We would be happy to receive from clubs names of youths identified as desirable material.

During the last few months, much groundwork has been laid by the working committee for this School to materialise and now, it is left to the coaches and other officials to ensure that the trainees are adequately and soundly trained in their skills, tactics and knowledge of the game. I am happy to note that there is some form of standardisation and monitoring of the training to ensure that the trainees will develop progressively over a period. This is now possible because a definite syllabus has been drawn up for the various age groups and all coaches have been briefed so that there is uniformity in their approach.

FAS is already actively involved in the School and it will continue to support the School. There is no promise but I shall look into the possibility of arranging curtain raisers for the Under-19 or the Under-18 before some important matches. By exposing these young players before large crowds and more experienced teams, we can build up great confidence and experience in them.

I am sure that with the right guidance and coaching, we may be able to produce players like Fandi Ahmad, Au Yeung Pak Kuan and Malek Awab to don the National Colours just as we had Mat Noh, Dollah Kassim and Samad, before them. May I conclude by wishing success to the SSC/FAS/MILO Soccer School and also thank Nestle Singapore Ltd for giving financial support to the School.

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