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**SPEECH BY MR TEO CHONG TEE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS), AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING OF FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE (FAS)  
AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM THEATRETTE  
ON FRIDAY, 30 MARCH 1984 AT 7.00 PM**

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The present FAS Council of 15 members will soon complete the second year of the three-year term of appointment, made by the Acting Minister for Social Affairs, which took effect on 1 April 1982. As you all are aware, the spectator-support in general then was fast on a downward trend and the continued decline in such support for various international matches during our first year had caused much concern to the FAS because our revenue was adversely affected. That was one of our worries.

However, today, it is my pleasure to deliver this address on a totally different note as compared to the grim picture I had presented on 30 March 1983 when we had our Annual General Meeting here. I am indeed happy to note that spectator-support had significantly shown signs of increase in 1983. That was brought about by our successful organisation of the Pre-Olympic Asia/Oceania Group Three matches, the Tsingtao Cup Quadrangular Tournament, the 12th South East Asia Games Soccer Competition and the Second Merlion Cup Soccer Tournament.

We have in fact achieved a more than satisfactory performance in these competitions during 1983. More importantly, we were also able to consolidate the FAS financial position with a net surplus of about

\$100,000/-. Our National Team's performance, particularly at international competitions, could improve further. If this could be achieved, the FAS financial position could further be consolidated. The finances must be well controlled and lavish spending must be avoided.

Coming now to other areas of football administration, we must ensure that the various FAS Standing Committees put in extra effort in their field of responsibilities. I am confident that members have the will to render service to the FAS in the promotion of football in Singapore. We are beginning our third year and we have to make further progress in our organisation. We have reorganised the Standing Committees in which every FAS Council Member has a role to play.

These Standing Committees are:

International Relations Committee  
head by Mr Lau Teng Chuan;  
Tournament Committee headed by Major Abbas Abu Amin;  
Referees Committee headed by Col M S Gill;  
Youth Committee headed by Mr Joe David;  
National Team Committee headed by Mr Yap Boon Chuan;  
Special Project Committee headed by Mr Lim Jit Poh;  
Disciplinary Committee headed by Dr Cheng Heng Kock;  
Executive Committee headed by Mr Tan Soo Nan; and  
Medical Committee headed by Dr S Krishnamoorthy.

As you are aware, changes were made to the Tournament and Referees Committees which were formerly headed by Mr Tan Kok Siong and Major John Ong respectively. I want to place on record the FAS's appreciation to Mr Tan and Major Ong and former members of these two Committees for their contributions to football over the past years.

Another important change that will further enhance the FAS administration is the forthcoming implementation of computerisation. Many of us present here tonight would

never have thought that the FAS would also one day be able to join the computer age. Credit must go to the Finance and Administration Committee headed by Mr Tan Soo Nan and assisted by certain computer specialists who had voluntarily spent months conducting a feasibility study before the project was introduced late last year. The FAS spent about \$30,000/- on the purchase of three micro-computer systems. The staff from the FAS Secretariat are being trained to use the computers. When the systems are fully operational, the staff will be more efficient in handling matters like registration of players in the National Football League, records on clubs and affiliates, detailed results of competitions and computerised financial records. Facilities would be expanded as and when the needs arise.

Once again, I must emphasise that indiscipline among players on and off the field of play in 1983 continued to be appalling. In my address at the 1983 Annual General Meeting, I noted with disappointment that none of the 30 NFL clubs could be awarded the Fair Play trophies together with the accompanying cash prizes in 1982. Nevertheless, I had hoped that, with better enforcement of discipline by clubs' officials on their players, the three Fair Play awards in the three Divisions of the National Football league would be won in 1983 but, to my disappointment, none again had won the award for the second year running. It is now my hope once again that good discipline among players, even among clubs' officials must prevail for the sake of good sportsmanship.

In soccer where physical contact among players is unavoidable, players must at all times be repeatedly advised by clubs' officials to be restrained and tolerant under any circumstances. Otherwise, the FAS would have no choice but to implement sterner and unpopular disciplinary measures against errant players as well as clubs. I am sure that all of you will agree that players or even

officials who are deliberately trying to inflict injury on their opponent players or even officials during the game or after the game, must not be treated lightly. Nobody is above the law. The Disciplinary Committee headed by Dr Cheng Heng Kock will continue to mete out severe punishment, no matter how unpleasant the task that they have to undertake, to all those who are guilty of indiscipline. Worse still, they may even have to face the law of the State. Therefore, I must once again urge all officials and players to control their temper during and after the matches and together work for clean and entertaining football for spectators.

As for the controversial issues concerning referees who are poor and inconsistent in their decisions which sometimes result in dissent, violence and deliberate rough play out of sheer frustration among players during the matches, the FAS and the Referees Committee under its Chairman, Col M S Gill, are putting in a concerted effort to improve and upgrade the standard of refereeing. The first monthly discussion for referees was held on 5 March 1984 and it will be a regular feature for referees to meet and exchange views. This is most encouraging and can only contribute to improving the standards and entertainment value of soccer which must be a matter of priority. I am happy to say that this is a step in the right direction.

Now, let us look at the FAS calendar for 1984. The Pre-Olympic (Asia/Oceania) Final Round competition in April, the Anchor cup Tournament in July, the 3rd Merlion Cup Tournament in October, the 8th Asian Cup Final Round in December and the annual ovaltine Cup will be the highlights of the year. All these forthcoming projects will no doubt make 1984 the busiest year the FAS has ever had in its organisation of soccer competitions. I am confident that these prestigious matches will be entertaining for our soccer fans.

Apart from all the international soccer competitions, a lot of emphasis and attention will continue to be given to organising the three divisions of the National Football League in the first five months of the year. The Tournament Committee, headed by Major Abbas Abu Amin, has been enlarged and reorganised to achieve greater efficiency and generate better crowd support.

About three weeks ago, the new SSC/FAS/MILO Soccer School which caters for the different age groups from various resources such as, schools, clubs, SSC and FAS was launched after much groundwork was laid by the Working Committee of the Youth Committee, headed by Mr Joe David, for the purpose of youth development of soccer in Singapore. It is now left to all those who are directly involved in the implementation to ensure that the scheme will be a resounding success.

Although it is a busy year for the FAS, the Council is determined to do its best to ensure that the Singapore National Team, the Singapore Intermediate Team, the National Youth Team and the Age-group teams perform well in future competitions ahead.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to Mr Jita Singh who was a full-time National Coach-cum-Manager for the National Team for the past four years. Although Mr Jita Singh had returned to Mindef to assume a full-time job, we are indeed happy that he has kindly consented to continue to serve the FAS on a part-time basis. The FAS would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Fandi Ahmad who had taken a break in his professional football season to lend a helping hand to the Singapore National Team in achieving second position in the final of the Second Merlion Cup Tournament last year.

I would also like to thank the various sponsors and commercial supporters of football, the Singapore Sports Council, and in particular its Chairman, Dr Tan Eng Liang, the press and the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation for their continuing support and publicity without which our various efforts in organising soccer tournaments would not have been successful. Last but not least, my sincere thanks go to all those people who have in one way or another helped the FAS achieve its objectives in the administration and promotion of soccer in Singapore in 1983.

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