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SPEECH BY DR TAN ENG LIANG, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL
AT THE CHEQUE PRESENTATION OF THE SSC/PEPSI SQUASH TRAINING SCHEME
AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM CONFERENCE ROOM ON 12 MARCH 1983 AT 11.00 AM

The history of commercially-sponsored training schemes goes back to 1972 when badminton trainees were recruited for the first time. With this modest beginning, the number of schemes has grown to 11. It is estimated that over \$1.6 million have been spent on training expenses in the last ten years.

We are very fortunate to have public-spirited sponsors lending their support with generous donations each year. Thanks to them trainees are able to enjoy the benefits of systematic instruction without any cost to them.

Free coaching has been the unique feature of all the training schemes administered by the Singapore Sports Council. This practice opens the door for all youths, irrespective of their financial standing, to take advantage of the training.

However, just because lessons are given free, trainees should not be deluded into thinking that they can take things nonchalantly without any regard as to whether they make progress or not. Similarly, parents and guardians should not consider a free scheme as lacking in quality in respect of instruction and content.

If there is such erroneous thinking, I would like to dispel it once and for all. On the contrary in the SSC/Pepsi Squash

Training Scheme, we have a panel of five dedicated coaches with good credentials servicing the scheme. Only last year, the Singapore Sports Council's Sports Aid Fund sent two of them to upgrade their knowledge in an Australian coaching seminar so that they can better serve the trainees.

The SSC/Pepsi Squash Training Scheme has, in its four years of existence, produced such outstanding youngsters as Tang Chiang Sin, Anthony Tan, Julius Foo, Belinda Foo, Corinna Lim and Cynthia Yeo, just to name a few. Together with the others, they read like a Who's Who list in junior squash. There is little doubt that they would eventually replace the old-guard in men's and women's squash. This is reassuring for those of us concerned with the future of our squash standards.

On behalf of the Singapore Sports Council, I thank Pepsi Cola for their \$30,000 donation to finance the SSC/Pepsi Squash Training Scheme for yet another year.