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SPEECH BY TAN ENG LIANG, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL AT THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AND SPORTSBOY AND SPORTSGIRL AWARDS CEREMONY AT SHANGRI-LA HOTEL ON 29 APR 83 AT 8.30 PM

The Singapore Sports Council is 10 years old this year. In the last decade, the work at SSC could be likened to driving a car over different terrain - first across a plain and then up and over a series of hills. To be sure, it was an eventful journey, replete with many ups and downs as only such terrain could dictate. Along the way, we sowed the seeds of the "Sports for All" movement and created a national awareness of the importance of sports and physical fitness. We now look back with satisfaction over the broad expanse of land forested by the luxuriant growth of young and old sporting specimens.

In our sports promotion programmes we generated interest in mass sports. We provided opportunities for people to take up sports as a lifetime activity. For the young and talented, we found them places in training schemes to hone their skills. At constituencies, we organised inter and intra constituency tournaments. We also developed two national fitness schemes for the public at large. In another area, we upgraded the skills of officials so that they could better serve sports.

The cumulative effect of all these is a greater visibility of sports participation at all strata of society, a more concerned attitude towards physical fitness and above all, a more gutsy approach by the young to excel in those sports that they are adept at.

We in the Sports Council have successfully driven our car up and over several hills. But the journey's end is not in sight. Just now we have arrived at the base of a mountain -- a mountain of hope for all our sport loving youth. At this point of time, however, we are parking our car momentarily to take a hard look at our future. It is apparent that for us to successfully drive up this mountain ahead of us, we should be prepared to do several things.

First, we need to shift to a different gear as driving up a mountain necessitates a different driving technique.

Second, we have to make improvements to our car so that it will be able to carry a heavier load without loss of speed and power.

Third, we need the continued help of sponsors - we call them affectionately the good "sports samaritans" - along our journey because adding improvements and providing the wherewithals of promoting sports excellence cost money... lots of money.

Fourth, but no means of least importance, we need all the help of individuals and organisations, even those with a remote interest in sports, to give our car a push, so that we could reach the top of the mountain in good time and in fine shape.

Only with the assistance of all and sundry can we be able to keep the wheels of sports moving efficiently and transport more passengers up the mountain road towards sports excellence.

We are fortunate to have as our co-driver and close ally - the Singapore National Olympic Council and its affiliated national sports associations. For years we have complemented one another's driving skill and we will certainly maintain this winning combination.

Now for the ascent of the mountain and our aspirations for the next decade: We will continue to work hard towards achieving sports excellence, looking into the sports and recreational needs of the aging population, building higher quality facilities while not abandoning the idea of an indoor stadium and developing more relevant industrial sports programmes for greater fitness and productivity. With these, I hope I have given you some food for thought.

It leaves me to thank all our friends and guests for joining us in our celebrations tonight and specially our guest-of-honour, Mr E W Barker and Mrs Barker, for gracing our dinner.