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SPEECH BY DR TAN ENG LIANG, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL
AT THE SINGAPORE SCHOOL'S SPORTS COUNCIL COLOURS AWARD
PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD ON SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER 1983 AT 10.00
AM AT THE CHUNG CHENG HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

The main objective of education is to help a person attain his/her full potential so that he/she would be able to cope with the demands of today's changing scenario and perplexing society. Viewed as such, education is more than just a development of the mind - intellect and reasoning. The term full potential denotes a sense of an all-rounded and well-balanced individual. This concept of education therefore involves the development of not only the mind and the body but also the moral values of the students.

On the aspect of morals, recently, there has been an increased emphasis by the government to develop a more comprehensive moral education programme. This step marks the recognition of the growing importance of not only having citizens that are intelligent but are also responsible and ethically sound. An educated person should be able to have for himself/herself a clear set of standards and ideals to guide their lifelong goals and daily living.

For developing the body, there is at present two programmes in schools catering to this aspect of education, Physical Education (PE) classes and Extra Curricular Activities (ECA). These two programmes are aimed at teaching students physical skills and sportsmanship that are an essential part

of development and growth. Another aim in schools should be to educate students in maintaining their physical health. It is important that they learn and practise physical fitness and enjoy playing a lifetime sport, for without good health, all else is of little use. Many students may never become champions but at least, they are knowledgeable and will take regular exercise, proper meals, and adequate rest.

These aims to provide a balanced education for the development of the total personality of the young is a responsibility that has been put into the hands of teachers. We have been fortunate to have an established Institute of Education to train teachers for the important task of education.

The emphasis in the past 10 - 15 years have been on intellectual development and in this aspect, our teachers are well-trained. Although PE and sports have always been a part of the school curriculum, most schools view these activities as outlets for students to expand excess energy so that they will be able to concentrate on academic work. PE and sports have therefore not enjoyed a parity of treatment as other academic subjects.

It has only been in recent years that schools are reviewing the importance of PE in schools. This has come about because of the growing awareness among the public of the benefits of healthy recreation through sports and also the fact that many of our young people entering National Service

are found to be physically unfit. As such, the Ministry of Education has put more emphasis on PE and sports. In the process of trying to upgrade PE programmes in schools, a process which in my opinion was too slow, it has resulted in too few teachers qualified to teach PE. As a step to elevate this problem, feasibility studies to set up a PE college to upgrade physical education in Singapore have been studied, reviewed and restudied over the last eight years. Lately, we again are witnessing a replay of events. It would appear that the PE College is proving to be a difficult conception and even more difficult to bring forth into this small world of ours. Experts come and experts go. Reams of reports have been written. I hope, as a parent and a sports administrator, that a definite decision can be taken on the birth of the PE College. For the most basic ingredient to a sound PE and Sports programme is the supply of well-trained PE teachers. I know of many schools crying out for PE teachers. The situation sorely needs rectification. Until this is rectified, national sports associations will continue to struggle with poor material resulting in a low standard of competitive skills. Singapore will then remain behind other countries in the quality of competitive sharpness.

"Mens sana in corpore sano", a sound mind in a sound body is also one of the policies of the Singapore Sports Council. To this end, the Council has provided various scholarships for those who excel in sports and academics (eg. the SSC/ESSO Scholarships) and have started the Sports Aid

Fund to help potential athletes to further improve themselves not only in their sports but in their future career development. The Council also organises 11 training schemes in the popular sports to allow students to learn a sport of their choice. Finally, in its part to promote sports as a healthy leisure activity, the Sports Council has made available to the masses many mass programmes and also facilities for exercises and sports.

Today's awards ceremony is an acknowledgement of those who have excelled in sports and I congratulate all the recipients of the colours of the Singapore Schools' Sports Council and the outstanding Performance Awards.

May I also urge you as students to make every effort to make your lives more meaningful. After you have satisfied the obligations of your academic work, you should learn everything within your means to be well-rounded individuals. Meanwhile, you have an important role to play in your schools. By the recognition bestowed on you today, you have become the fine examples for thousands of fellow students to emulate. I wish you success in fulfilling this role so that the honour you have brought yourself, your school and your sport, can be held in high esteem.