

1 JUN 1984

EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY

SPEECH BY DR TAN ENG LIANG, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL, AT THE SPORTSBOY/SPORTSGIRL AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE CATHAY RESTAURANT ON FRIDAY, 25 MAY 1984 AT 8.00 PM

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Mr & Mrs Barker, Ladies & Gentlemen

With the establishment of the Sports Aid Fund, deserving athletes in Singapore now have a better chance to develop their potential. The Singapore Sports Council has recognised that hardwork, effort and determination are essential qualities of an excellent athlete, but these alone are insufficient. The high performance required in modern day competitive sports relies on good training facilities, perceiving coaches, equipment, special diets, medical and other requirements. The additional help in funds makes the difference.

The success of this fund in helping athletes improve their performances has been demonstrated in some of the regional games and international sporting events through the following (to name a few): Ang Peng Seng, Junie Eng, Navis Ee, Chan Mui Pin, Soo-Thó Kok Mun, Zainal Abidin, Lim Seok Hui, Harun Moudir, R Jayamani and the National Water Polo Team. Their successes have helped to inject enthusiasm into the people of Singapore to participate in sports and to strive for excellence.

While we look to successes in regional and

international competitions, we also want to instil in our athletes and coaches the values of skill development, stamina, true grit and sportsmanship on and off the field. Very often, we see players and officials questioning the decisions made by referees. Fights, during play and even after the game, have taken place. As you know some of this have taken place during the recent Pre-Olympic Football competition. I would like to appeal to all officials and coaches to inculcate in our athletes this sense of sportsmanship during training and competition.

I would like to congratulate all the officials from NSAs and CSCs/CSAs who are getting their certificates of commendation tonight. These awards are given in recognition of their silent and self-sacrifice service to sports which form the foundation of all our sports scene in Singapore both at the level of 'Sport for All' and in excellence. Too often the echo of champions overshadow the work of these officials. Tonight, I would like, not only to congratulate them but also thank them for all the assistance they have rendered in the promotion of sports in Singapore.

I would like to also congratulate this years Sportsboy Soo-Tho Kok Mun and Sportsgirl Chan Hui Pin who have very deservingly won the honours. My congratulations goes also to all those who are going to receive the Meritorious Award and the Good Performance Award.

Before concluding, I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Barker for gracing the occasion and to give away the Awards and Commendation Certificates. I would also like to record my appreciation to all Members of Parliament who have, in so many ways, supported the Singapore Sports Council. Finally, I would also like to thank all donors who have contributed so generously to Sports Aid, our training schemes, and for sports promotion in general.

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