

10 FEB 1985

EMBARCOED UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY

SPEECH BY DR TAN ENG LIANG, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL AT THE CHEQUE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE SSC/SHELL/BAS BASKETBALL SCHOOL AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM THEATRETTE ON FRIDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 1985 AT 4.30 PM

The SSC/Shell/Basketball Training Scheme was initiated in 1977. Since then, Shell Companies in Singapore had annually renewed their sponsorship for the scheme and about 1,500 trainees have benefitted from the scheme. I am glad to hear that about 15 trainees made it to the Youth Team and one even made it to the first five of the National Team. The Singapore Sports Council (SSC) is pleased with the progress made by the scheme since its inception. I believe Shell, the sponsor, and the other partners in the scheme are equally satisfied with the way the training scheme has been run.

The establishment of the SSC/Shell/BAS Basketball School represents a revitalising change for basketball in Singapore. The running of the School would be a tripartite arrangement involving the SSC, Basketball Association of Singapore (BAS) and Shell. I am particularly pleased that Shell has found it worthwhile to continue with the sponsorship and make the School a feature in the SSC training plans.

This School will train selected talented youths who will be groomed for the higher calling of international tournaments. If we wish to achieve this, then an expressed

national commitment by all concerned is necessary. This commitment needs to be in terms of an all out application of money, science, dedication and organisational support.

I am glad to announce that the three parties have committed an annual amount of \$147,000 to run this School. Once again, Shell has shown the foresight and leadership to lend their support towards the development of a better quality in sports. Together with the BAS, who is also a party in this School, and who will also be donating a considerable sum towards the running of this School, we hope that in the near future we will be able to produce quality players for the National Squad.

If we are to lift our basketball standards beyond our present level, we will have to be scientific in our approach and constantly introduce new techniques into our training regimens. We will also have to be innovative and create movements and patterns of play that suit our players' physique and style of play.

For the trainees who are now going to be in the School, they should be dedicated and should set their sights higher and not be contented with just securing a place in the School and hoping for a place in the National Squad as the ultimate aim. They should look forward to not just representing Singapore, but making Singapore basketball a name to be reckoned with at regional games.

It is clear that if Singaporeans wish to enjoy some international prominence in basketball or other sports, we must be able to depend on more than raw talents. We have to call upon public support and the support of players and the officials themselves who have to orientate their thinking towards high performance sports in the context of our society.

I would like to thank the members of the SSC/Shell Basketball Training Scheme Advisory Committee and the coaches for discharging their duties faithfully over the years.

It leaves me now to thank Shell Companies in Singapore and the Basketball Association of Singapore for their kind donations towards the running of the SSC/Shell/BAS Basketball School and hopefully their additional support in the future.