

9 MAR 1985

EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY

SPEECH BY DR TAN ENG LIANG, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL AT THE CHEQUE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE SSC/MILO FOOTBALL SCHOOL AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM THEATRETTES ON 9 MARCH 1985 AT 11.00 AM

The SSC/Milo Football School was inaugurated last year to improve the standard of the game in Singapore. It is an attempt to provide promising and deserving youths with good quality coaching through a supervised programme. Under this school, coaches and players will be closely supervised and their performance will continuously be evaluated to arrive at the best possible training syllabus and implementation.

The SSC/Milo Football School is one of the 10 existing Singapore Sports Council schemes which gives trainees the opportunities to excel in their sport. It aims at producing a number of young footballers who are capable of reaching national standards of performance in the future. This should infuse quality talent into the national squad. 6

As you know, football is one of the older training schemes which has matured sufficiently to require a more sophisticated form and level of training to accelerate the potential of the feeder group to national level. The SSC has so far persuaded the sponsors of football, waterpolo, squash and very recently, basketball, to extend their support up to national level.

The SSC, FAS and Milo have dedicated themselves to the concept of this school. As such, I expect all trainees of this school to give off their best. Without your dedication and commitment to make football a success in Singapore or in this region, there is very little we officials can do.

I therefore would like to urge all the trainees of this school to dedicate themselves to improving themselves and learn to accept the habit of hard training required to fully develop your ability and potential, even if there were no established material incentives.

At this juncture, I would like to echo the words of our Second Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Ong Teng Cheong who at the recent Singapore Badminton Association Building Fund Dinner said: "It seems that the time has come for us to encourage the cultivation of individual sport talents and spur them on to excel. There is much to be said for encouraging talents to emerge. They would motivate other younger sportsmen and sportswomen to strive harder. We may not produce world beaters but we would certainly make the tournaments more exciting and enjoyable". The Singapore Sports Council fully supports his view for a greater effort in pursuit of excellence.

I would like to now thank the coaches servicing this school. They have done a thorough job of providing encouragement and systematic training. Through their expertise, they are moulding raw young bodies into sturdy young men, many of whom are presently playing for the national team.

It now remains for me to thank Nestle Singapore for maintaining the scheme's needs with this donation of \$25,000. Their donation is testimony of the confidence they have in the future of football of this country. I would also like to thank the Football Association of Singapore for their support in making this school a success..

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