

In his speech, CSC President Mr. P. Raveentheran, welcomed Mr. Chan Soo Sen, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Health, Mrs. Chitranganee Wagiswara, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Singapore, President of the Singapore Indian Association, Mr. Raj Kumar; President of the Singapore Khalsa Association, Mr. Jagjit Singh; Trustees, Dr. A. Vijiaratnam and Dr. Oliver Henedige, Mr. S. M. Vasagar and many distinguished guests. He traced the history of the Club since its inception in 1928 and said "The Balestier Plain is Home to some of the most prominent Sports Clubs in Singapore".

He recalled the circumstances in which the Club was destroyed when the British stored drums of petrol as the Japanese advanced towards the City, and the condition of the ground during the Occupation. Of particular significance, he said, "It will certainly be valuable if our National Heritage Board would erect commemorative Plaques in these sites providing useful information of its History for future generations and visitors. The Balestier Plain houses other famous Clubs - Khalsa Association, Singapore Chinese Recreation Club and Singapore Indian Association, all of which are cosmopolitan in make up and whose sportspersons have represented Singapore at sports at National Level. For CSC our sportsmen and sports women are our greatest assets. Our Darts team led by Eric Tan has been Champions in several local tournaments and runners-up in the recent KL Games. Our men's hockey team under Gunasekaran were Champions at last year's Royal Bangkok Hockey Tournament.

In the recent CNN Gallup Polls conducted, about 95% of parents interviewed, responded that they would like to see greater emphasis placed on Sports in Schools. We are extremely pleased that the Government has set up a high-powered 25-man committee on Sporting Singapore (CoSS) announced on September 6 to promote sports for all and to strengthen the various National Sports Associations. The Ceylon Sports Club wishes to place on record its whole-hearted support of these initiatives by the Government. We sincerely hope, that with

the slogan, 'Sports For All' more support will be given to sports such as cricket, hockey and darts that have been growing in popularity in recent years. I understand that there are more than 2000 students playing cricket under the auspices of the Singapore Cricket Association whose plan is to get Singapore into the International Cricket Conference World Cup. Our CSC cricket team led by Sarika is doing very well in the Singapore Cricket Association League.

To live up to its image as a Premier Sports Club, the CSC launched, a year ago, Coaching Clinics in cricket, hockey, netball, tennis, soccer and golf. Today, a number of Schools and Polytechnics are affiliated to the Club.

We believe that with our Club's cultural heritage that goes to make up a vibrant multi-racial Singapore what it is today, youths and members of different races, creeds and backgrounds participating in sports in CSC from an early age, will help in our efforts in Nation Building and bring about social cohesion, hence enriching our nation as a truly cosmopolitan metropolis.

In our community role over the past 6 years, our Mentor programme has assisted needy students including those from neighbouring schools in their studies, while they pursue their passion in sports. We have also hosted children from underprivileged homes and organisations such as MINDS to our Annual Christmas Parties and functions such as this.

As Napoleon once said, 'A Leader is a Dealer in Hopes'. Let us continue to work together and achieve our shared hopes and vision to make our Club a Premier Sports and Family Club and continue to promote wholesome and healthy sporting activities and play an important role in the 21st century."

The President concluded by thanking the Guest of Honour, Mr. Chan Soo Sen for his kind attendance, Organising Committee of the Function, Mr. Shreepathy, Mr. T. Ravindran, Mr. Patrick Joseph, Mr. Patrick Rudge, and Mr. Matt Singh, the Staff and many others for their dedicated work, their efforts, often not seen by many, that contributed to the evening's success.