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Kuala Lumpur '98, Sydney 2000 the best ever sporting events

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ON the night of Sept 20 1998, during the closing ceremony of the 16th Commonwealth Games at the National Stadium, Commonwealth Games chairman Michael Fennell declared: "Malaysia promised the best ever Commonwealth Games, and Malaysia delivered".

Later in a letter to our Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Fennell said: "The 16th Commonwealth Games are now history but it will be remembered as the best ever not only by those who were present in Kuala Lumpur but by the millions who viewed the Games on television."

On Oct 1, 2000 at the closing ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Games at Stadium Australia, the president of the International Olympic Council, Juan Antonio Samaranch, told a packed stadium: "I am proud and happy to proclaim that you have presented to the world the best Olympic Games ever." They certainly did.

The Kuala Lumpur 98 Games were a befitting grand finale to conclude the last Commonwealth Games of the 20th century and Sydney 2000 was a spectacular beginning of the Olympic Games of the new millennium. Two sporting events at their very best.

This certainly has been a great era for sports. For whatever length of time the Olympics and Commonwealth Games continue to be staged, future Malaysians and Australians will say: "This has been our finest hour." Syabas Malaysia and good work, mate.