

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
AT THE OPENING OF THE ANNUAL CON-  
FERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
MALAYAN ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH CLUBS  
IN KUALA LUMPUR ON 20TH APRIL, 1962

Mr President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very glad indeed to have the pleasure today of addressing this gathering of distinguished guests and the representatives from over 300 Youth Clubs in the Federation.

Last year, at the official opening of your Annual Conference, I made an extremely lengthy speech defining our National Rural Development Policy and suggested how and where voluntary and youth organizations could in fact fit in, and play their part, towards the achievement of our National Development Aims.

Today, I do not intend to repeat this declaration of policy because I think the aims of my Government are now so well established and well-known that you all already have a pretty clear indication of the direction in which we are going and in what we are trying to achieve.

In fact, I see that my last year's speech has been re-printed in your Association's Guide to Rural Development Planning which you call your "Blue Book".

I should like to congratulate you on the production of the "Blue Book" but with my congratulations may I repeat my advice of last year that we must be ever aware that it is one thing to plan but it is something quite different, and much more difficult to convert plans into positive results.

This task of converting plans into action is even more difficult in the case of Youth Clubs and needs tremendous determination, and strength of purpose to follow through until such time as real results are in fact achieved.

It is so easy to have lots of Conferences, lots of Seminars, lots of Meetings, and lots of Talking, but it is much more difficult to translate talk into action and to develop ideas into actual realities.

We are a young and vigorous Nation in which there is no shortage of good spirit, good feeling, ambitious intention and excellent emotion but we continually have to consider ways and means by which we can convert "emotion into motion" if we are to progress.

Today, I would like to appeal to all of you to remember, long after the words which have been said in this Dewan have died down, and long after your many committee meetings and discussions have been finished, that the main task still lies before you, the task of translating talk into tangible Action and translating tangible Action into progressive projects and results.

With regard to youth clubs, I should like to say that if properly run under the correct guidance, and the correct leadership, they can be a tremendous asset for good in the task of Nation building.

Although I have never exactly known what in fact is the definition of a youth, I remember reading, the other day, the words of a young boy who some how or/other get himself into disgrace with his father; his words were "the trouble is that I am neither a child nor a man, and yet, I get the blame for the faults of both".

In this modern world, tremendous care and attention has been given to the problems of child birth, and modern science has done a tremendous lot in ensuring that mothers will produce bigger, better and more beautiful babies, and yet, so little attention has been given to what I would call a child's second birth "his birth into adulthood", the time when he is neither a boy nor a man, but blamed for the faults of both.

This is the time when care, guidance and leadership of a very high standard is required to transform our young people into becoming better, more mature, and more responsible adults so that they can play their full part as citizens of our Nation.

I am very glad indeed to be able to congratulate your Youth Association that so far, you have been taking steps in the right direction on this matter.

I should like also to appeal to the fathers and mothers of our youth throughout the country to pay more particular attention to this "second birth" from childhood to Adulthood.

I sincerely hope that your Association will do all within its power to make your activities, attractive to the youth of our country so that they will be encouraged to join and support your activities, and that, by the vigorous implementation of the plans and programmes you have set yourselves, you will be able to absorb the energies of our youthful citizens towards service to our Nation, and at the same time enjoy themselves, as young people should do, in giving service to their country.

May I, Mr President, express my thanks to you for inviting me to declare open this Conference and General Meeting, and I should like to wish you all success in your deliberations during the next three days. I now officially declare open this Annual Conference and General Meeting of the Malayan Association of Youth Clubs.



Tun Abdul Razak bin Hussein sedang menanam sepohon pokok kelapa berdekatan dengan pintu masuk Bangunan Baru Kilang Getah yang didirikan oleh RIDA di Jeruas, Raub, Pahang pada 2hb Mei, 1962.

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