

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT
THE SECOND READING OF THE MERDEKA
STADIUM CORPORATION BILL AT THE DEWAN
RAKYAT ON 11TH MARCH, 1963

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

I back to move that a Bill intituled "an Act to establish the Merdeka Stadium Corporation and to provide for purposes incidental thereto" be read a second time. As Honourable Members are aware, both the Merdeka Stadium and the Stadium Negara are at present managed as interim measure by a Working Committee appointed by the Government under my chairmanship. This is only a temporary arrangement because we have always intended to establish a corporation independent of Government, and it will have legal status to manage and administer these two Stadiums.

Now, Sir, this Bill provided for the establishment of a corporation and it shall be run by sixteen members appointed by the Minister responsible, including persons nominated by the Menteri Besar of Selangor¹, and persons representing sporting organisations. The State Government of Selangor has interests in these Stadiums, because it provides the land, and so we thought it proper that the State Government should be represented on the Corporation; also as the two Stadiums are of great interest to the sporting organisations of this country, they also should be represented.

Clause 3 of the Bill sets out the powers of the Corporation which include the power to manage any other stadium for use in connection with sports, games and other similar activities.

Clauses 8 and 9 provide for a National Stadium Corporation Fund and for the Government to make grants to it from time to time as it deems fit.

¹ **Dato Abu Bakar bin Baginda.**

Clause 11 provides for the submission of an annual report to the Minister responsible and copies of such report will be laid before each House of Parliament. I should explain that the Minister charged with responsibility for the Merdeka Stadium Corporation is the Prime Minister.

Sir, I should like before concluding to take this opportunity to express my highest appreciation on the great deal of voluntary work which has been done by members of the present Merdeka Stadium and the Stadium Negara Committee for running the two Stadiums for a number of years. Most of these members have done their work voluntarily and have spent their valuable time in the interest of the public. I should, therefore, like to say that we, the Government, greatly appreciate the work that they have done. Sir, this is a non-controversial Bill and it only provides for the general management of our sports stadiums, and I do hope that it will receive the support of this House.