

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT M.A.Y.C.
ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING AT
DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA, KUALA LUMPUR
ON 1ST MAY, 1964

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like to congratulate you and your Association for the tremendous work and energy that you have all put into fostering the role of youth clubs throughout the country. Your programme is an ambitious one and I am glad to see from your Annual Report that you have had success in achieving it. I am particularly happy to note that 128 programme of Community Services were successfully carried out in 1963.

I am very glad also to see that your Association was able to encourage youth club members to undertake agriculture and animal breeding which have not only taught new skills but also new methods of earning a living.

You have certainly made the most of your resources over the last year and have implemented many ambitious, and I am glad to say, successful programmes, by carrying out short term courses on civics, leadership, vocational training, rubber tapping, rubber processing, rope making, and courses on new agricultural techniques.

These many constructive efforts towards which you have directed the energies of your Association are a great step in the right direction, the direction in which we want the youth of our Nation to move, the direction towards better ways of life and a higher standard of living in both our rural and urban areas.

I see that you and your Association have resolved to extend its facilities to Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore — I should like to wish you all success in the implementation of this idea.

Let us look to the future. Speaking as a Minister of the last Alliance Government and I hope as a Minister of the new Government, it is our intention to lay great emphasis in the next few years on the activities of the youth of our country as stated in our Manifesto. As soon as the new Government is set up we intend to draw up positive plans to ensure

that all facilities for our people are improved and enlarged.

In the past through our Rural Development Programme, we have assisted in providing football pitches, sepak raga patches, badminton courts etc. In the future we intend to enlarge on these facilities so that our youths both in the town and rural area will have adequate facilities to come together and mix together not only on the sporting field but also in cultural and educational activities of their own wish.

I would like to make it clear that in endeavouring to afford facilities for our youth, we have no intention of detracting or killing existing voluntary organisations but rather to supplement their efforts so that existing voluntary organisations such as Red Cross, St. John Ambulance, Boys Scout, etc., will be able to carry out their activities with greater success.

It is essential therefore, and it is the declared aim of our new Government, that we will do all in our power to equip our youth with the correct qualities and attitude of mind which will prepare them for the days which lie ahead.

We are determined to do all we can to afford all our young people on whom the future of our country depends in the rural and urban areas with a happy, healthy, free and unfrustrated life so that they will grow up into adulthood with strength of body, strength of mind, and a balanced outlook, which is the safest foundation to resist the damaging distractions and misleading propaganda which exist in some parts of the world today, and which, if we do not guard against these dangers in the minds of our youth in Malaysia, could quite easily be absorbed by devilish and detrimental influences.

I wish you every success in your deliberations and have much pleasure in declaring open this Conference.