

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AS PRESIDENT OF THE OUTWARD BOUND TRUST OF MALAYSIA AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TRUST AT BANGUNAN GETAH ASLI, KUALA LUMPUR ON 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1971

Gentlemen,

I wish you all welcome to our Annual General Meeting. At the same time, I invite you all to join me in expressing our thanks to Bangunan Getah Asli for making available this Board Room for our Meeting today.

As in past years, I would like to begin by reviewing the work of the Trust and the School's progress during the year.

Firstly, the enrolment: The number of trainees attending various courses in 1970 was 459. This is a slight drop compared to 478 in 1969, but I am told that the calibre of the trainees was of the usual high standard.

Bookings for the current year are slightly ahead of last year but we are still some fifty short of our target figure of 500 for the year. I am confident we can reach our target as the Committee of Management have introduced a Course for Girls, which is due to commence on 9th October. Bookings for this Course have not been taken into account but indications are most hopeful.

In this connection, I am very pleased to be able to announce this course. In actual fact, the idea has been under consideration for some years and now the Management Committee has decided to implement it. (Perhaps, they are inspired by the launching of the Second Malaysia Plan). The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports has booked ten places and another six have been booked by FLDA and Malayan Tobacco. Shell Company in conjunction with PERTAMA (which is our Women Journalists Association) have offered two scholarships for working lady journalists. Part of the conditions for recipients of these scholarships is that their participation is also combined with journalistic assignment; besides the trainees will be asked to do a full length feature story on their experience of the course.

If this first Girls' Course is a success (and I have no doubt it will) this then will become a regular annual feature in the School's programme.

With regard to the day-to-day administration of the School, the Management Committee met regularly during the year to deal with the many administrative and other problems. One of these meetings was held at the School itself so as to give the members a first hand view of the situation. I am sure that all members will join me in expressing appreciation for their good work.

The School now has a strong and highly qualified staff of Malaysian Instructors, two of whom were formerly P & T Instructors with the Army in Singapore. Encik Baba bin Mohd. Noor, the Chief Instructor and Encik Yusof Hussain, have brought with them a number of new ideas, which have greatly enlivened the courses and added considerable interest to the curriculum. The curriculum, I may say, is completely Malaysian in character and is drawn up to fulfil the needs of our society and our environment.

We are indeed fortunate in having a group of enthusiastic young men with clear sense of dedication and other qualities necessary for this important work. I would like to place on record, our thanks to the Warden and the staff for the high degree of efficiency with which they have carried out their duties throughout the year. The future success of the school depends on the dedication and efficiency of the staff and I know that we can depend on them to maintain the high standards set so far.

Gentlemen,

Coming next to the accounts, the audited accounts for the year have been in your possession for some time and you will note that the income and expenditure account again shows an excess of income over expenditure. After many years in the "red", this is the third year that our accounts have kept a favourable balance and I congratulate the Committee on their prudent management of the School's funds.

In spite of the enhanced excess of income over expenditure, a number of improvements and additions have been made to the School premises during the period under review. All the buildings have been given a new coat of paint both inside and outside; a number of wash basins are now added to the ablution rooms and

after all this time, the sanitation has been converted to a modern flush system. The water supply system was completely overhauled and NEB mains electric light was introduced. In addition, a large "ice-making" machine was purchased to provide all the ice cold drinks that the trainees could consume. I am told they appreciate this item best of all.

Finally, a fine concrete games ground has been constructed to provide the best possible facilities for Sunday games. The ground is floodlit and has facilities for volley-ball, basket ball, badminton and sepak takraw. Every trainee attending a course can now enjoy participating in all the four games.

It is a happy fact the School is in a tip-top condition and is well-equipped to provide the youth of this country with the unique type of training offered by Outward Bound. Undoubtedly, it is this kind of training that will turn them into responsible citizens and potential future leaders of our country.

Gentlemen,

As I have said before, it is dangerous to keep youngsters too long in a state of dependence without giving them the responsibility which helps them to mature. Outward Bound provides the necessary facilities to give young people an opportunity to accept responsibility, to bring about the best in them as it guides them in the most practical methods to fulfil their obligations.

Today, more than 60% of the population is under the age of twenty five. In terms of employment, they might be a problem, but looking at it positively, they are also our biggest assets since they constitute tremendous untapped resources of energy and vitality. Given the opportunity, our youths are capable of doing great things for the nation.

Last month, addressing our youths on television in connection with Youth Week, I reminded our young people to be self reliant, to accept the present day realities and to make full use of the opportunities available to them. They should always be disciplined and be guided by the Rukunegara in their daily life.

The success of the Second Malaysia Plan depends on the support and co-operation of the people of this country especially the youths.

I, once again, call on all those involved with young people, particularly parents and employers in both Government and Private Sector—to send young people for a course at our Outward Bound School. By doing so, they will be giving our youths an opportunity to find the best in themselves, to learn the basic principles of life and to imbue themselves with the spirit and determination of new pioneers blazing the trail of progress.

Some of the service clubs in this country have, in the past, sponsored young men for courses at the School. I would like to see all the clubs making such sponsorship one of their main projects for the next five years as part of their contribution to the new Five Year Plan. I, therefore, call on the Rotarians, the Jaycees, the Lions and all similar groups to sponsor at least one if not two young people each year from their districts to attend courses at the School.

I call also on the Private Sector to send their junior and middle-level personnel to undergo courses organised by Outward Bound. I shall also see to it that both Federal and State Governments will send more of its officers for training at the School. With adequate support from all quarters, not only the sponsors will benefit but the School will be able to play a more significant role in building a strong foundation for our nation.

Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped the Trust over the past year, in particular, I would like to thank Messrs. Barlow Boustead Estates Agency Sendirian Berhad, the Secretaries and Treasurers, for their efficient service. And, once again, our thanks to the administrators of Bangunan Getah Asli for the use of this magnificent premise.

I now have the pleasant task of announcing the winner of the Tunku Abdul Rahman Award for 1970. You will recall that the award is given to any ex-trainee who most exemplifies the Outward Bound spirit by a single outstanding act or by a series of acts, living up to the motto "To serve, to strive, and not to yield."

The winner of this coveted award for the year 1970 is Enche K.B. Thuraisingham. Enche Thuraisingham is a barrister working for a large banking group in this country. He attended Course

No. 156 in October 1970 and was the most outstanding trainee in that course. The staff at the School have followed the activities of Enche Thuraisingham as well as other outstanding trainees since then and they have recommended him as the most eligible candidate for the Award.

The winner of the award for 1969, Captain Ghazali Ibrahim, was announced at the Annual General Meeting last year but unfortunately Captain Ghazali was overseas on active service at that time and was unable to receive his award.

Captain Ghazali attended Course No. 48 in November 1959 and was the most outstanding trainee in that course, scoring the highest marks. He later returned to Dindings District in command of a Commando Unit. Notwithstanding, his duties as a Commanding Officer, he visited the School regularly and he frequently helped the local kampung folk, sending the sick to Lumut Hospital in his car and giving monetary assistance to destitute persons. He impressed all who met him as a man of integrity and a charming personality, and is always helpful to his fellowmen.

I now call on these two young men to come forward and receive their awards.