

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND
THE PRESIDENT OF OUTWARD BOUND TRUST,
AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
TRUST AT BANGUNAN GETAH ASLI, KUALA
LUMPUR ON 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1974

Members of the Outward Bound Trust, Gentlemen.

It gives me very great pleasure to welcome you all to this Annual General Meeting. I must first thank the Malaysian Rubber Fund Board for once again making available this Board Room for our meeting.

The School has had another highly successful year. A record 553 trainees attended the various courses compared with 513 trainees in the previous year. Bookings for the current year have surpassed all our previous records and stand today at 641. This is the first year in the history of the School when the number of bookings exceeds the 600 mark.

The capacity of the School since its foundation twenty years ago in 1954 has been sixty trainees per Course, or 600 for a full year, and the increased popularity which is indicated by this year's bookings demonstrates the need for expansion of this capacity. It may be timely, therefore, that Lumut has been selected as the site for the development of our new Naval Base and necessitates the rebuilding of the School at a new site, where we can allow for greater capacity. In this connection, I am pleased to report that the Committee of Management has been carrying on discussions with the Perak State Government with a view to acquiring a new site for the School not far from the present site.

During the year, a girls course was again organised with an attendance of fifty six young ladies who received their badges from Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Puan Muda of Selangor.

The increased number of trainees has brought further financial prosperity to the Trust and you will note from the accounts that there has been an increase in the excess of income over expenditure, notwithstanding the fact that various improvements have been completed to the buildings during the year and the standard of upkeep has been maintained at a high level.

All this is most heartening and I am sure you would like to join me in congratulating the Committee of Management and the School staff on a job well done.

Recently, the Council of Trust lost one of its staunches supporters for the past thirteen years when Mr R.E.L. Wingate retired from this part of the world. Mr Wingate was Chairman of a group of companies formerly headed by the late Lawrence Holt, a co-founder of the first Outward Bound School at Aberdovey. The Trust will still have a link with these companies as Mr R. C. Wurtzburg, Mr Wingate's successor has agreed to stand for election to the Council. On your behalf, I would like to express our deep appreciation to Mr Wingate for his support and encouragement.

During the year, the Trust commissioned the making of a half hour colour film depicting the training at the School and showing how such training contributes to the improvement of young men and women in facing the Challenges of life. The Trust is most grateful to the Rubber Growers Association, the Chamber of Mines, the International Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers who provided the \$30,000 to finance this film.

The function of the School is to test the capacity of young men and women under trying conditions, to ascertain their ability to cope, when they find themselves in a difficult situation and to train them to face the many challenges which occur every day in our modern world. During a course they are helped to prove to themselves that they can stand on their own feet without assistance. This is important if they are to be good citizens of our country.

The Government's Economic Policy offers vast opportunities, through its various channels and agencies, to equip young men and women with the necessary training to face the development of our country and I stress once again that it is the Government's policy to uplift the standard of living of all the people through its development plans.

I once again appeal to the Private Sector and all Government Departments and agencies to assist our young people. One of the best ways of helping them is to sponsor them to undergo training at the Outward Bound School. This will give them an opportunity to understand fully their responsibilities to the nation and will also help to build up a stronger spirit of goodwill and loyalty.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped the Trust in its work during the past year and especially to Messrs. Barlow Boustead Estate Agency Sdn. Bhd. for their services as Secretaries and Treasurers of the Trust.

Before concluding, I would like you to join me in offering our hearty congratulations to Encik V. A. Allan, the longest serving Instructor at the School, who was awarded the Ahli Mangku Negara by His Majesty the Yang di Pertuan Agung in his Birthday Honours and finally I am glad to announce the winner of the Tunku Abdul Rahman Award for the year 1973. As you all know, this is a special award given to the ex-trainee who in the opinion of the Trust has set a good example to others in keeping up the motto of the School "To Serve, to strive and not to yield".

This year's winner is Encik Foo Teng Song who attended Course No. 83 in 1963. Born in the Dinding Area, Encik Foo grew up in the shadow of the School and when he was old enough, achieved his ambition to attend a course. He attained a good Merit Badge and later joined the staff of the School as an Instructor in which capacity he serves today.

He was a member of the Territorial Army for five years, after 13th May he was elected a member of the Teluk Murok Goodwill Committee. He was a member of the Vigilante Corps during Indonesian confrontation. He is presently a Parent's representative of the Teluk Murok School, a member of the High School Fund raising Committee and a regular blood donor.

He is always thoughtful and sensible and is very popular with both the trainees and staff. He seems to know everyone and everything in the Dindings district and proves to be a most useful member of the staff.

Will Encik Foo please come forward to receive his award.