

SPEECH BY YB DATUK HUSSEIN ONN, MINISTER  
OF EDUCATION, AT THE 19th ANNUAL COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE MALAYSIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AT THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA, KUALA  
LUMPUR, ON SATURDAY 31st MARCH, 1973 AT  
3.00 P.M.

I am very pleased to be present at this function to declare open the 19th Annual Council Meeting of the Malaysian Historical Society

I wish to express my gratitude to YB Tuan Haji Mohamed bin Yaacub and YB Tan Sri Justice Ilohd. Suffian for consenting to serve as Vice Presidents and I understand that they are unable to be present on account of other official engagements.

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As you have already read in the Annual Report for 1972/1973, among the plans that have been successfully carried out are the launching of our Society's Branches in East Malaysia in Sabah and Sarawak and the encouraging response from His Highness the Regent of Kedah, the Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers of the other states to become Patrons of the State Branches. The society has received the support and help from the State Secretaries to ensure the smooth running of the activities of the Society's State Branches.

Besides, 15 radio features related to historical matters have been prepared, the journal Malaysia in History Vol. 15 Nos. 1 and 2 have been published, 345 students in Form IV, V and VI throughout the nation, including Sabah and Sarawak have taken part in the Malaysian History Essay Contest for 1972.

As you are aware, Historical Exhibitions have been held with success in Malacca and Ipoh. The Local History Exhibition of Selangor organised by the Selangor State Branch was officially opened yesterday by YAB Menteri Besar, Selangor.

A project that is being considered is the building of a Museum of History with the help and cooperation from the Government, the private sector and philanthropists. In Asia, active development is taking place in the Museum Movement in India, which has more than 200 museums, in Thailand and in Japan. Museums in Asia were built in the nineteenth century according to the patterns in the West emphasising archaeology or natural history. The developing communities in countries which have achieved independence as in Malaysia require contributions from a Museum of History in accordance with conditions prevailing in a scientific and technological age. The National Museum of History and Art in Taiwan is very active

in its efforts to portray the various aspects of Taiwan's history. Our Muzium Negara will continue to give its big contribution as usual.

In respect of those states such as Johore, where there are no museum of their own, I wish to urge that they take the necessary steps to establish their own state museums I would also like to suggest that these states introduce the necessary legislation, if they have not yet done so, to protect historical buildings, sites and relics.

The success and strength of the Malaysian Historical Council depends to a large extent on the contributions of the state branches. I would like to take this opportunity to request all branches to have a programme of activities for at least a year. This programme should be circulated to the members of the public even if they are not members of the Society. All the states in West Malaysia and East Malaysia now have state branches and the time has come to conduct joint activities among branches. The Malaysian Historical Society at the national level will be much more active this year. The History Essay Contest this year will be open not only to upper secondary pupils but also to students in the colleges and the universities.

I am happy to announce today that the Historical Association of Malaysia has been lucky in getting very effective encouragement in the form of donations as follows:

(a) The Ministry of Youth & Sports	..\$1,000
(b) The Lee Foundation	... 1,500
(c) The Social and Welfare Lottery Board	... 3,000
	\$5,500

It is my belief that, with these contributions, we shall be able to have History Essay Writing Competitions on a bigger scale in the future.

It is also to be hoped that next year's annual reports from the various state branches will indicate an increased number of activities involving more people in the states in an effort to inculcate a feeling of pride in the history of our country.



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