

ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
TO THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES MALAYAN
HOCKEY FEDERATION, KUALA LUMPUR ON
12TH OCTOBER, 1963

Members of the Council of Delegates,

It was more than two years ago that I had the pleasure of addressing the Council Delegates, Federation of Malaya Hockey Federation.

At that time, I asked you to elect the right officials who would be prepared to work hard and with sincerity.

I am glad to note that my appeal was not in vain. Your Executive Committee of the last two years have done an excellent job, and I wish to congratulate them on a good and honest effort.

They have raised the Malayan Hockey team from mediocrity, where it was in 1961, to a good world ranking position today. It is fortunate that the Executive Committee members were mature men of sound judgement, and most of all acted with one mind to carry out their objectives. I hope you will be able to get such a committee for the coming years ahead.

The Executive Committee have been assisted greatly by the co-operation, and goodwill of the State Officials without whom the Committee could not have achieved the success they have. The Annual Report gives you a clear picture of our successful fight, to put Malaya on the World Hockey Map.

The coming years are very important. With the Tokyo Olympic Game a year ahead and standards in Hockey all over the world levelled up, the tournament at Tokyo will be a greater challenge than ever before.

It is therefore necessary that you should get into active and serious training without a moment to lose.

You have experienced officials and selectors of the past year. With now States added, and co-operation and support forthcoming for the parent body, an executive and selection committees consisting of past experienced Officials and new blood should lose no time to keep the Malaysian preparation at top gear, right up to the Olympic Games.

It is essential that a spirit of friendly co-operation exist, between the affiliates and the parent body. I am not happy when affiliates rush to the Press and make a mountain out of a mole hill. Nor are the Press slow to take advantage of cheap sensationalism. Though the parent body has power to take disciplinary action against such conduct, we have refrained from doing so. However, I must say that in future, both discipline of the affiliates as well as the players should need closer attention of the Executive Committee.

At the last Malaysia Carnival finals, I was shocked at the unsporting and rowdy behaviour of some Officials, encouraging players to leave the field. Every association should see that the right Officials are elected, otherwise the conduct and behaviour of poor Officials is going to harm the fair name of the State Association, as well as the Malaysian Hockey Federation.

The Officials should set an example to the younger players and not mislead them.

Your Selection Committee has drawn up a vigorous programme of training and tours. I understand that Mr. Durairatnam is negotiating with India and Pakistan for games, when our teams are selected in May 1964. He has also asked me to approach Australian and New Zealand High Commissioners for inviting these teams to Malaya.

All this means finance. We have had no support from affiliates during the last biennial years.

With a big programme ahead, I want you to work hard and improve the financial position.

This will be the last meeting of the Malayan Hockey Federation. It has a proud record of achievements. We have several distinguished persons who have given all their best for the Malayan Hockey Federation. I am sure their services will be available to the stronger and bigger Malaysian Hockey Federation.

There is a big agenda ahead, and I hope you will get through this quickly in a spirit of goodwill and sportsmanship, and bring the birth of the Malaysian Hockey Federation. When this is done, we can go take up the question of a new constitution, by appointing a sub-committee among yourselves to go into it thoroughly and make your recommendations. If we approve a constitution in a haste it is going to be the cause of endless trouble in future. Therefore, give it all your thought. Most affiliates have not elected the Officials for the coming year. When this is done, they should each set up a committee in their own State and send in their recommendations to the sub-committee appointed, who will study it in detail before drawing the constitution.

I thank you all for coming from all over Malaysia to attend the meeting.