

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF OUTWARD BOUND TRUST OF MALAYSIA AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TRUST, AT BANGUNAN GETAH ASLI, JALAN AMPANG, KUALA LUMPUR ON 28TH AUGUST, 1972

Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to welcome you and to thank you for your presence at our Annual General Meeting. We are grateful to the Bangunan Getah Asli for making available this Board Room for our meeting today and I invite you all to express our thanks to MRFB for their kind gesture.

I would like to begin by reviewing the work of the Trust and the School's progress during the year.

Firstly, the enrolment: we had 449 trainees attending various courses in 1971. This is a slight drop compared to 458 in 1970, but the trainees maintained the usual high standard.

Up to date there are 548 places booked for the current year—the highest number of bookings in the history of the School. This is well above our target figure of 500 per year but slightly below the capacity of the School which can accommodate an average of 60 trainees per course or 600 per year.

Last year, we introduced courses for girls the first time. The first batch of forty one young ladies sponsored by PERTAMA underwent the course from 2nd-19th October. I am told it was a tremendous success. The girls took to the training with great enthusiasm and their only disappointment was that the course lasted only eighteen days instead of the normal twenty five days for boys. We have agreed that, in future, courses for girls would be twenty five days—same as boys.

With the success of the second girls course from 26th February to 21st March this year, the Committee of Management decided that there will be at least one girls course per year in future.

Gentlemen,

I am glad to note that 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.

Today, the School has a strong and highly qualified staff of Malaysian Instructors, two of whom were formerly Army P & T Instructors. The curriculum is now completely Malaysian in character and is drawn up to fulfil the needs of our society and our environment. I am happy to say that the School is in excellent condition and is well equipped to provide the youth of this country with the special type of training offered by the Outward Bound.

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 of the School depends on the dedication and efficiency of the staff and we can depend on them to maintain the high standards set so far.

The audited accounts for the year have been with you for some time. You will note that we again have an excess of income over expenditure and this is most heartening. After many years in the "red", this is the fourth year that our accounts have kept a favourable balance, notwithstanding the fact that a number of improvements have been done to the School during the year.

I am sure you would all like to join me in congratulating the Committee of Management on their prudent management of the School funds.

Gentlemen,

Our young people today faces greater challenges compared to our generation. The process of growing up is more "existing" than ever been. With better food, better health and medical facilities, our children are bigger, healthier and better educated. But, side by side with this, there is also the growing pattern of juvenile

delinquency. The long accepted moral values of the older generation are being questioned and to some extent this has affected our younger generation. Partly this is due to rapid communications; so what is currently popular among the youth in the United States or Europe will inevitably find its way here. I suppose we cannot completely be free from such phenomena as Hippies or Woodstocks but we must take necessary measures to control them.

In view of this, it is of vital importance that our schools, universities and other places of learning should direct their energies towards producing a nation of educated, young people, imbued with the spirit of self-respect and self-reliance to face present day realities and the challenges of future. Our young people ought to be always disciplined and guided by the Rukunegara in their daily life.

Gentlemen,

The Outward Bound School is a very important adjunct to our national education system. It provides the necessary facilities to give our young people an opportunity to accept responsibility, to bring ours the best in them, and it guides them in the most practical methods to fulfil their obligations.

I would like to appeal to those involved with young people, particularly employers in both Government and Private Sectors, to make full use of the facilities at our Outward Bound School. By doing so, they will be giving our youths an opportunity to find the best in themselves, to instil in them the spirit and determination and prepare themselves to be responsible citizens and potential future leaders of our country.

Last year, I appealed particularly to the service clubs in this country to sponsor young men and women for courses at the School. The response has been good but could be much better. I am sure the Rotary Clubs, the Jaycess, the Lions and all similar groups can sponsor at least one or two young people each year from their districts to attend courses at the School. By doing so, they will be making a really worthwhile contribution to the Second Five Year Plan and progress of our country.

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.

Gentlemen,

As you know, the Government is planning for the development of a Naval Base at Lumut. This will necessarily affect the present site of the School and therefore a new site has to be found for the School. I understand the Management Committee is looking into this matter and I would like them to plan for a really modern school with better facilities. The character and tradition of the School should be retained but should be properly integrated with the national policy in youth training.

Before I end, I have the pleasant duty of announcing the winner of the Tunku Abdul Rahman Award for 1971. 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 1971 is A.S.P. Y.M. Raja Lope Ahmad bin Raja Razman.

Raja Lope attended course No. 25 in the year 1957. He was then a Probationary Police Inspector. He did a very good course and obtained a Merit Award.

Ever since, he has maintained a unusual interest in promoting the School by giving talks on the Outward Bound Movement and by encouraging young men to take part in the training. He is a very sound and responsible young man with a pleasant personality and those who know him have always found him to be forthright, thoughtful and obliging.

The Staff at the School have followed his activities and have been very much impressed by his bearing, conduct and behaviour, and feel that he is worthy of this Award.

I now call on Raja Lope to come forward and receive his Award.