

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT THE  
OPENING OF THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
CONGRESS, KUALA LUMPUR ON 10TH DECEMBER,  
1965

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to be with you all this evening. It is indeed opportune that at this time when we are holding this little Olympics or the festival of sports — The Third South East Asian Peninsular Games should be held at the same time as this Congress on Physical Education.

We in Malaysia are very happy and very proud to be the host country for the Third SEAP Games, as we sincerely believe that there is no better way of strengthening friendship among nations than in the friendly rivalry of sports held in the true spirit of sportsmanship. It is on the field of sports that men and women from different countries, of different race or classes can meet freely on common ground. In the field of sports there is no money to be made or gained but instead honour and glory can be achieved only through personal efforts and success.

I would like to extend a very sincere welcome to our friends from other countries in South East Asia who are taking part in this Congress. We sincerely welcome them and trust that they will completely feel at home in Malaysia and in Kuala Lumpur, our capital city. I do hope during your stay here, beside attending this Congress you will also have the opportunity of meeting our people informally in their homes and their place of work so that you will realize and appreciate that the people of Malaysia are imbued with a real desire to live in peace with their neighbours and to have strong ties of friendship and goodwill among countries in this region. It has always been our dearest wish that countries in the world, particularly in this region should live in peace with one another, respecting each other's independence and way of life so that more countries can progress happily together.

I would like to congratulate those responsible for organising this Congress and it is indeed very fitting that the theme of the seminar should be "International Goodwill through Sports and Physical Education". We in Malaysia are a young nation. As a young nation we have many problems to face. Our people having been under colonial

rule for more than a century are desirous of improving their standard of living, of obtaining amenities of life necessary for decent living. It is the intention and the policy of the Government here to give our people these amenities and to carry out economic and social development so that our people will really have a proper and rightful place in our country.

As you know, today we announced the launching of our First Malaysian Plan. For the last 5 years in Malaya and also in the two new territories, Sabah and Sarawak, great strides have been made in the field of development. Indeed our people, particularly the "have-nots" in the towns and the villages have seen a quiet evolution of progress in their lives. This First Malaysian Plan will carry them forward further in this field of development. That is why in order to meet this challenging task our people must be strong in body and mind. We would like to encourage sports and physical education not only among men and women but also in our schools so that our boys and girls will grow up to be strong and useful citizens.

I hope and trust this Congress that is being held today will inspire our physical educationalists and sports specialists in carrying out the task of strengthening the national character of our people by exposing the youth to the challenges inherent in the field of sports.

I am sure our friends from overseas will also agree with us that they and their people would wish also to encourage sports and physical education. As I say there is no better way of fostering friendship among nations than through sports. I do hope that with effective leadership it may be possible in the years to come to develop a regional concept of physical education for countries of the South East Asian region.

By regularly holding the SEAP Games and by having common concept in physical education we will have done a long way towards bringing our countries in this region closer together.

I wish you all success in your deliberations. I am glad to note the interest taken by Rothmans & Co. in projects of this nature and I do hope that other business enterprises will also take interest in projects of this nature. I have therefore great pleasure in declaring this Congress open.