

**SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE
CLOSING OF THE THIRD WORLD INVITATION
BADMINTON TOURNAMENT AT STADIUM NE-
GARA, KUALA LUMPUR ON 7TH SEPTEMBER,
1975**

Mr. S. Wyatt, Representative of I.B.F., Encik Ahmad Sabki, Secretary General of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Honoured Guests, Officials and players of participating countries, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am happy and honoured to be here with you all this evening at the close of this Third World Invitation Badminton Tournament which our country, Malaysia, has had the privilege of hosting. I would like to express my appreciation to the International Badminton Federation for the trust and confidence that they have in us by allowing us to organise this important event.

For the last four days, our people as well as visitors to Kuala Lumpur have had the opportunity of witnessing top-class Badminton players from eleven countries—England, West Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Japan, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and our own country, Malaysia—proving their prowess in this game.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Badminton has always had a special place among our people. As you know, at one time, we held the Thomas Cup, the symbol of supremacy in Badminton, for several years but the Cup has since slipped off from our hands and we are yet to make really serious efforts to regain the Cup. We are striving very hard to regain the old form and I hope, in the not too distant future, there will emerge a new breed of players who will put us back in the limelight of world Badminton scene and probably bring back the Thomas Cup to Kuala Lumpur.

We are indeed proud of the honour of hosting this Third World Invitation Badminton Tournament. In fact, 1975 has been a momentous and eventful year for us as far as sports is concerned because, apart from this Tournament, we have hosted four important major sporting events—the World Hockey Tournament in March; the Muhammad Ali/Joe Bugner Big Fight in July; the Asian Shooting Championship in middle of August; and last, but not least, the Merdeka Soccer Tournament which ended a few days ago.

We are fortunate in that there is peace in the country and our people are by nature sports-loving. We also believe that sports is one of the ways of bringing people together in healthy competition and thus help to promote friendship and understanding. Furthermore, in this present era when everyday we read in the newspapers of misunderstanding and misfortune, of conflicts and confrontations in so many parts of the world, sports is the one arena where the spirit of friendship and goodwill is always kept alive and burning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Badminton Association of Malaysia, the organisers of this Tournament, and particularly the Organising Committee and all others connected in one way or another with this event, for their unstinting effort in making this Tournament a success.

I am sure they have done everything possible to ensure the satisfactory arrangement of the Tournament as well as the comfort of the players and officials. As in any big sporting events such as this, there is bound to be shortcomings. Nevertheless, I hope, in our own way, we have been able to make your stay here both pleasant and comfortable.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the champions of the various events, especially the new champions. To those who have not succeeded, there is always the next occasion. I hope they will train harder and will have a better luck. Of course, in any competition, there is always the winner and the loser: though winning is important but more important still is the ability to participate in the true spirit of sportsmanship.

I hope those among you who are able to spare the time to be with us a bit longer will make a point to visit other parts of our country, meet our people and see how they go about in their daily life. By this way, we hope you will carry home with you happy memories of your brief stay here.

Once again, I wish you all a pleasant stay in our country and a safe journey home. Thank you.



Y.A.B. Tun Haji Abdul Razak bin Hussein sedang menyampaikan hadiah kepada Liem Swie King dari Indonesia di upacara kejohanan Badminton Jemputan Dunia di Stadium Negara, Kuala Lumpur pada 7hb September, 1975