

UCAPAN OLEH: DATO' SERI DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD
(PERDANA MENTERI)

UPACARA: PERASMIAN PUSAT BELIA ANTARABANGSA

TEMPAT: BANDAR TUN RAZAK, KUALA LUMPUR

TARIKH: 16 APR 1988

MASA:

Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak,
Menteri Belia dan Sukan;
Encik Kampo Harada,
Tetamu Kehormat dari Jepun;
Dif-Dif Kehormat;
Tuan-tuan dan puan-puan.

Saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Lembaga Amanah Pusat Belia Antarabangsa kerana menjemput saya untuk merasmikan pembukaan bangunan yang indah dan serba lengkap ini. Saya juga mengambil kesempatan di sini untuk mengucapkan Selamat Datang ke Malaysia kepada semua tetamu kita dari luar negeri.

2. Pusat Belia ini telah berjaya dibina dengan usaha bukan sahaja oleh Kerajaan Malaysia, tetapi juga dengan bantuan pihak-pihak tertentu, terutama sumbangan kewangan daripada seorang dermawan dari negara Jepun, Encik Kampo Harada. Beliau telah menderma sebanyak satu billion Yen bagi pembinaan Pusat ini. Saya mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan atas kemurahan hati beliau.

3. Perhubungan antara sesebuah negara dengan negara-negara lain semakin hari semakin menjadi mudah dengan adanya sistem pengangkutan dan perhubungan yang bertambah baik. Kemudahan perhubungan ini telah merapatkan lagi hubungan antara berbagai bangsa, termasuklah hubungan antara para belia.

4. Oleh yang demikian, para belia Malaysia haruslah terus aktif dalam pergerakan belia antarabangsa. Penglibatan dalam pergerakan belia antarabangsa akan mendedahkan belia kita kepada berbagai pengalaman serta aspek hubungan antarabangsa, di samping meningkatkan sumbangan yang dapat mereka berikan kepada kesejahteraan antarabangsa. Kerajaan berharap Pusat Belia Antarabangsa ini akan meningkatkan lagi peluang belia-belia Malaysia untuk bercampur-gaul, bertukar-tukar pendapat serta menambah pengalaman dengan belia negara-negara asing, terutama dari rantau ASEAN dan Asia.

5. Upacara pagi ini turut disertai oleh para jemputan dari luar negeri. Dengan itu izinkan saya berucap juga dalam Bahasa Inggeris.

6. I would like firstly to take this opportunity to bid Welcome to Malaysia or Selamat Datang to all foreign dignitaries and youths attending this opening ceremony. This is really an auspicious occasion for our youth, for from today they have for their use a complex which is as beautiful as it is well equipped.

7. The establishment of this International Youth Centre is an added page in the history of youth development, not only for Malaysia but also for this region. This Centre will not only bring pride to the youth of this country but also to the government which is very committed to the development of youth. I trust that it is also a pride to those countries which share the same objectives.

8. While we feel proud that Malaysia has been chosen for the siting of the International Youth Centre, we also realise the responsibilities that go with it. We believe that with the expertise and experience that we have acquired in this field, and also with the support given by friendly countries and international organisations, we will be able to provide the leadership and guidance in youth development programmes to all those using the facilities made available at this Centre.

9. I would like to urge the youths of this country and the youths from other developing countries to intensify their efforts in organising various youth activities for the development and progress of their nations and peoples, in line with the objectives of their respective countries. While such activities will involve young people, they must always be cautious of the negative elements in their societies, lest they fall prey to these elements who are on the lookout for every opportunity to influence the younger generation to serve their selfish interest. Youths should always be able to identify those who wish to make use of them for their own selfish motives. They must be willing to work hard and inculcate in themselves noble ideals and values in life so that they would be real assets to their society and nation.

10. Youth by nature are compassionate and feel strongly about things. In this they serve as the conscience of society. But they must remember that the adults of today are the youths of yesterday, youths who had the same strong compassion and feeling. The chances are that the youths of today will lose their strong feelings as they age, for the realities of life will affect the ideals that they have now. And so, as they strive to better society, they must not resort to ways that are destructive of the society they wish to better.

11. The Malaysian Government is grateful for the invaluable contribution made by the well known calligrapher from Japan, Mr. Kampo Harada, who has generously donated one billion Yen towards the cost of this beautiful building. On behalf of

the Malaysian Government, I thank Mr. Harada and the Japan Calligraphy Education Foundation for this generous contribution. We hope that more people like Mr. Harada will come forward to contribute in whatever way they can to help developing nations organise youth development activities which contribute towards nation building, international understanding and world peace.

12. I hope this International Youth Centre will become a focal point for cooperation among youths in ASEAN, the Asia/Pacific and the Commonwealth countries. Cooperation and mutual understanding among the youths of these regions can be achieved by holding such activities as meetings, forums, courses, seminars and youth exchange programmes. These activities will help to strengthen unity and international cooperation which will lead to mutual respect and understanding of the different cultures, systems, values and beliefs of different peoples.

13. Kita sekarang ini hidup dalam dunia yang serba mencabar. Banyak negara yang mengalami gejala kebuluran, buta huruf dan pengangguran yang teruk.

14. Keadaan bertambah buruk lagi kerana negara-negara yang kuat kerap pula campur tangan dalam urusan politik dan ekonomi negara-negara yang kecil dan lemah. Mereka campur tangan tanpa mengambil kira kepentingan negara-negara kecil dan lemah dan juga tidak menghiraukan pentingnya keamanan dan keharmonian hidup negara-negara tersebut. Justeru itu, negara-negara yang menyedari hakikat ini harus terus berusaha menyebarkan pemikiran saling faham-memahami dan kerjasama antara berbagai bangsa dan negara di dunia ini. Berbagai langkah mungkin boleh kita pertimbangkan, dan salah satu daripadanya ialah meningkatkan kesedaran dan sikap toleransi di kalangan belia kita.

15. Selaras dengan semangat ini Malaysia akan terus menjalinkan hubungan rapat dengan negara-negara lain yang sama-sama mementingkan hubungan sedemikian. Persahabatan ini adalah berlandaskan kepada prinsip saling hormat-menghormati dan saling tidak campur tangan dalam hal negara masing-masing.

16. Sekali lagi saya berharap Pusat Belia Antarabangsa ini akan dapat meningkatkan kebolehan, daya usaha dan pengalaman para belia negara kita dan negara-negara sahabat. Kepada mereka yang terlibat dengan perancangan dan pelaksanaan projek ini, serta para dermawan, marilah kita bersama-sama berbangga dengan terbinanya Pusat ini. Kebanggaan kita akan bertambah sekiranya kemudahan-kemudahan yang terdapat di Pusat ini dapat digunakan sepenuhnya dan objektif-objektif pembinaannya tercapai.

17. Dengan ini, saya dengan sukacitanya membuka Pusat Belia Antarabangsa ini dengan rasminya.

