

SPEECH BY DATO SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BT HJ MOHD ALI
MULTIPURPOSE HALL, MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY CYBERJAYA
THE OPENING CEREMONY OF ENGINEERING GAMES 2002
25 OCTOBER 2002

It gives me a great pleasure to be associated with the inaugural Engineering Games 2002, and as a patron for these Games, I would like to compliment the organising committee on your joint efforts in organising this event.

2. This is the first Engineering Games to be held, and I hope it would be the first of a long line of successful sporting events. It is certainly a unique idea to bring together undergraduates and graduates from the engineering profession in a national-level sporting meet, and I would like to give credit to the students who brought up the idea and then enthusiastically contributed to the planning and staging of these Games. I am very pleased by the eagerness of these students to meet other students within their field and it is my hope that all friendships forged during the Games would be cherished and maintained when the Games are over.

3. Sports have a long and proven history of uniting people. It is able to bring together people from different backgrounds, sharing a common goal of sporting achievement. It emphasises the value of co-operation and teamwork and it touches the need to abide by rules and regulations. Sports also teach the importance of self-discipline and how to deal with victory or defeat with good grace. It is my hope that that these Engineering Games would prove to be a positive outlet for the energies of young people, providing them with healthy alternatives at the same time.

4. The Engineering Games' theme of "Engineering the Foundation of Unity" is indeed noble. For this, I would like to strongly emphasise the Prime Minister's belief in saying that our country's unity is not to be taken for granted, and that efforts to promote unity and social integration among the young be continued. I trust that with the staging of this event, the bond between engineering students all over Malaysia will be strengthened, creating a common desire for unity among students and engineering graduates. It is not often that students from different universities, who are not the top athletes within the university, be given the opportunity to gather and compete in a friendly atmosphere. After all, it is more important to participate than it is to win. It is in this spirit of eager participation that a more enjoyable sporting atmosphere is created.

5. The Engineering Games' aim of creating a healthy lifestyle amongst its participants is to be applauded. One of the best ways to keep healthy and to live a long and fruitful life is to stay active. It is a true but sad fact that a lot of working people is no longer able to play team events, as it requires a committed group of people to continue practising as a team. Perhaps the students here today would be able to form sporting alliances, which they would continue to maintain once they have started working and have moved on to a more busy lifestyle.

6. As for inter-varsity co-operation, I believe the organizing committee has set a good example for the rest of the students from various institutions of higher learning throughout Malaysia. It is generally critical that the people contributing to the success of a sporting meet, whether athletes, volunteers or supporters, are able to do so in an atmosphere of fun, enjoyment and safety. It is already quite a feat for an organizing committee to organize a sporting event to such a scale. But to do it with the involvement of students from three different universities namely Multimedia University (MMU), Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) is a commendable effort. The difficulties experienced by these students must have been immense, as they would have to deal with the different regulations set by each university. As such, they are ideal candidates for the Games' theme, "Engineering the Foundation of Unity".

7. Last but not least, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the various organisations and distinguished individuals for the unwavering support and encouragement in making this event a great success. To all participants, I wish you every success in your respective events.

8. On that note, it is my pleasure to declare the inaugural Engineering Games for the year 2002 open.