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THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF MMU STAFF SPORTS CARNIVAL 2002
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First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all staff of Multimedia University a Selamat Hari Raya and a Merry Christmas. I am greatly honoured to be here today to officiate the closing the ceremony of the MMU Staff Sports Carnival 2002 as it is one of the rare occasions that enable me to be with the staff of Multimedia University from both Cyberjaya and Melaka Campus. I am also pleased that Prof. Dr. Ghauth is here, after his short illness to join me in awarding the prizes to MMU aspiring sportsmen and sportswomen.

2. MMU Inaugural Staff Sports Carnival is indeed a splendid idea as it brings together staff from both the academic and non-academic fields in a sporting field and the credit goes to the Management and the organising committee who brought up the idea and then enthusiastically contributed to the planning and staging of this carnival.

3. Since its inception in 1996, MMU has opened its doors to aspiring students and staff from the world over, in line with its firm belief that a multi-cultural, multi-national campus is pivotal to the development of globalisation and the borderless era that the new millennium holds. Simultaneously, MMU aspires to project its image as an international institution of academic excellence within this region and beyond.

4. However, let us not forget, that while we strive to remain competitive and attain the highest goals prefixed by the Management, the University must hold steadfast to a credible, positive and vibrant work culture, which will become an essential precedent to many benefits within the organisation. Part of this work culture includes inculcating an environment in which employee focus on building healthy relationship based on a willingness to learn about other people, be open-minded, talk through their differences and eliminate mistrust.

5. While the hectic day to day operation of the University may not warrant such a luxury, such an environment may be established through activities that are of a social nature and less demanding. Today's event is certainly one, which aims to achieve this and more. Through the 8 games contested, all staff can unwind from the pressures of their daily hectic schedules and acquaint themselves with each other on a totally different platform. It is not often that staff from various faculties, departments, centres and units in both Melaka and Cyberjaya campus, be given the opportunity to gather and compete in a friendly atmosphere. After all, it is more important to participate than to win. It is in this spirit of eager participation that a more enjoyable sporting atmosphere is created.

6. The cause of sport is a great cause and we all remember that it was a fundamental principle of sport within the nation that it should be conducted in circumstances where there was absolutely no discrimination or prejudice on account of race, ethnicity or other variation in background. I trust all games today are organised in the true tradition of any national sports activity and the vibe among all the athletes, supporters, volunteers and officials, I gather must be enormously positive.

7. It is my sincere hope that more events of this nature be pieced together in future to encourage healthy interaction among staff and to foster a spirit of harmony and goodwill in the workplace. I fervently believe that through this, employees will work better together, exuberate a high tolerance level and strive to achieve the organisation's objectives in a more effective and efficient manner.

8. Announcement of winners is expected soon. With that, I would like to congratulate the winning teams and contingents and to those who do not made it, I hope this will not let you down as I am sure that you have given your best effort in all the games contested and may the sporting spirit among the staff in MMU continues.

Thank you and Happy New Year 2003.

Wabillahi taufik walhidayah wassalammmualaikum warahmahtulah hiwarabarakatuh.