

**SPEECH BY THE CHIEF MINISTER AT THE
SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH CLUBS AT
THE BRITISH COUNCIL, KUALA LUMPUR ON
3RD MARCH, 1957**

I am glad to be able to meet in this Conference Room young men from all parts of the Federation. On looking around I observe that membership of this Association consists of all the communities in this country. I am extremely happy that this is so because it shows the good co-operation that exists among the youth of all races who have made this country their home. This augurs well for the future of our country as it is only with this co-operation among our complex community that we can hope to bring peace and prosperity to our land.

Your work towards this Association and the clubs you represent deserves public commendation as you have been willing to devote so much of your time and energy for the cause of the public without remuneration to yourselves. This spirit of voluntary service is public spiritedness of the highest order deserving of great praise.

You must be aware that there are many social welfare service which are badly needed by the people but which are beyond the help of Government, for example the organisation of games, the organisation of educational tours for the remote kampong. These will have to be undertaken by organisations such as the youth clubs. The Government will give a helping hand where it can. We have at the moment funds raised by the Social Welfare Lotteries to help the poor, the sick, the needy and the social development of kampong life. Unfortunately very little demand is made on this fund from Malay organisations. The reason for it is obvious: there are no organisations to look to the needs of these people. We have political organisations like UMNO that penetrates the heart of the kampong but their work is confined to political education of the people. The other side of the work, that is the social side, has been overlooked by many of the UMNO branches. I have myself continually advised them in the course of their political work to look into the social side of the kampongs. A certain



Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra selepas Pembukaan Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan Persatuan Kelab Pemuda Malaya di Kuala Lumpur pada 3hb Mac, 1957

measure of help has been given by Government in this direction but it is not enough. Therefore organisations such as youth clubs could easily give help which will bring many benefits to the kampong people.

As we advance to nationhood, we will need more and more of these social services as these are the factors that will help to equip the people for the role they are to play as responsible members of a raising new nation. At this state in our advancement many dangers lurk on the path. These dangers are highly injurious to the people and to the country. They aim to cause trouble, to cause upheaval in this happy land of ours and to cause bad feeling among the various races who live in this country. The harm that they will cause can be very serious and therefore their activities must be checked. The only way to do so is to encourage the growth of patriotic organisations such as yours whose duty would be to promote goodwill and understanding among the people and to do good to those who are in need of your help. We are living in a most critical period and the help and co-operation of everybody is needed to see us through to Merdeka and then after Merdeka to see us happily settled as a proud and peaceful citizen of this country.

One of the things in which your help is very much needed is to exhort people to be tolerant. There are people for instance who misunderstand the Reid Commission Recommendation and as a result of that they work themselves up unduly. We have got to explain to the people that the Reid Report is a recommendation by an Independent Commission who have been invited to this country to propose a form of constitution most acceptable to the Malayan people. It may be that some sections of the community feel themselves hit by it but the Reid Report will not be accepted until everything is done to remove any anomaly where such anomalies exist. You can rest assured that nobody will suffer under the new Malayan Constitution. It is a difficult constitution however to draft because of the different communities that live in this country but we are determined to find one that will be suitable and acceptable to all the people who want to make a home of this country.

The clubs you represent are operating in areas spread in different parts of the Federation, with different background and therefore you can do a lot to allay the fears and suspicions that exists among some people. The Annual Meeting you have today and the Conferences you periodically hold should give you the opportunity to discuss the problems in free discussion. I do not propose to take up more of your time but I must thank all of you, particularly the Chairman and the Secretary, for enabling me to meet you at this meeting. I wish the Conference every success.