

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE OPENING OF THE FEDERATION OF MALAYA SCHOOLS SPORTS COUNCIL'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC MEET AT THE MERDEKA STADIUM, K. LUMPUR. ON 16 AUGUST, 1960.

Mr. President, Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, Competitors and Children
I am very glad to be here today and to be invited to open this athletic meeting organised by the Federation of Malaya Schools Sports' Council

As a sportsman, I welcome every effort to encourage keen competition between schools particularly between schools in the Federation of Malaya and territories outside.

On this occasion the Federation schools will be competing against Singapore. This meeting, therefore, is an international competition, and we should make the best possible success of it. The previous meetings organised by the Sports Council were very successful but this year they and you are trying something new. The council hopes that this will be the beginning of a larger international schools competition in athletics. I therefore wish to congratulate the organisers for their far-sightedness in taking this initiative.

To make a success of this, however, you must have money. So far there is not in this country the same public support for other games as there is for football. You can see the great support the public has given to the Asian Youth Football competition and to the Merdeka Anniversary Tournament which has just been held. So these tournaments do not depend on government help.

To develop athletics it is necessary to have public support. All the government can do is to help in a small way only; the support must come from the public. So it must be some time before competitions of the size and importance you have in mind can materialise. That day will surely come, but in the meantime don't be discouraged, but carry on with your idea in the belief that one day you will achieve your aim.