

SPEECH BY THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, INCHE BUANG OMAR JUNID, AT THE OPENING OF THE SEPAK RAGA JARING TOURNAMENT SPONSORED BY 'GESAS' (SINGAPORE SEPAK RAGA JARING FEDERATION) ON 26TH AUGUST AT 7.30 P.M. AT THE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

The National Language Week is really a concrete effort on the part of the government to promote the use of the national language amongst the masses.

I am happy that 'GESAS' is also making a contribution towards the implementation of this year's National Language Week, and I believe that this contribution will be recorded in the history of the growth and spread of the national language in Singapore.

As a multi-racial country, Malaysia needs a common language - a language that can unite all the people from the various races. This is the only way we can strengthen racial unity and build a strong united nation.

Perhaps the program put up by 'GESAS' is an unusual one. However, the spread of the national language does not depend on its usage in the field of education and culture only but also in the field of sport.

The use of the national language must also be extended to sportsmen and must be made the language medium in sports. Sepak raga is a national sport that has become popular not only amongst Malays but also amongst non-Malays.

Sepak raga can be said to be the only game in which the counting of the points is done in the national language. But as the game gains popularity, more and more new words are used to suit the game.

Perhaps it is with this object in view that 'GESAS' has organised this sepak raga tournament as its contribution to the National Language Week. 'GESAS' is the only sports organisation that is taking part in this year's National Language Week activities, and I feel happy and extend my congratulations to the leaders of 'GESAS' for this.

And now I have great pleasure to open this sepak raga tournament.

AUGUST 27, 1964.

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