

SPEECH OF MR. YONG NYUK LIN, MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND
AG. MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, AT THE POLITICAL STUDY
CENTRE, GOODWOOD HILLS, ON FRIDAY, 24TH APRIL 1964
AT 1600 HOURS.

First 17 Singapore teachers answer call to expand
Sabah's educational programme.

I am most happy to be present here today at the conclusion of your short 5-day orientation course at our Political Study Centre prior to your leaving for service in Sabah next week on 1st May, on secondment for three years, in the first instance. This is your stirring answer to call for assistance to help in an ambitious programme of expansion for education as expressed by our brothers and sisters in Sabah. We are very proud that you have answered their call in the spirit of service and devotion to the noble vocation of teaching.

It may interest you to know that it was three years ago, in July 1961, that Dato Donald Stephens, Chief Minister of Sabah, made the first appeal for teachers from Singapore at the Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (C.P.A.) after which historic meeting, the Malaysia Solidarity Committee was formed to work towards the early establishment of Malaysia. Since that time, as you are well aware, the elected Governments and peoples of the four territories (Malaya, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak) have been kept extremely busy fighting disloyal and treacherous elements in our midst besides foreign subversion, in order to maintain peace, security and integrity of our nation.

It is a matter of great satisfaction therefore that despite the grave problems created by Indonesian confrontation, we are able to answer Sabah's appeal within seven months of the establishment of Malaysia, and that the great task of nation-building through education is proceeding ahead inspite of difficulties placed in our way through internal and external subversion and threats of aggression from supposedly "friends and liberators".

It is a matter of pride too, that your selection has been processed not only by our Public Service Commission but also by the Public Service Commission of Sabah. This double stamp of approval must therefore imply that you are most worthy ambassadors of Singapore to our brothers and sisters in Sabah.

I am happy to note too that of the 15 selected for secondment to Sabah, two of you have wives who are also qualified teachers and are prepared to stand side-by-side with their husbands in Sabah to serve in teaching also.

On behalf of the Government and people of Singapore, I want to say how proud we are of you, being the vanguard of the best that Singapore is able to despatch. Your readiness to serve our nation and our country, Malaysia, in far-off Sabah is most inspiring! On your showing and example, many more will leave Singapore to serve our people in Sabah, as and when the call is made and the appeal is answered - not only in teaching but in any field which our people in Sabah would wish of us.

May I wish you all, bon-royage and many happy landings and always remember that although you may be nearly 1,000 miles away from Singapore we will always be thinking of you and wishing you well in your great work for Malaysia. Always remember that your good work at Sabah will benefit not only our people at Sabah but also that of Singapore, because we are now one family, one people, and one nation - Malaysia!

APRIL 24th, 1964.

(Time issued: 1615 hours)
