

TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE YANG DI-PERTUAN NEGARA,
TUN YUSOF BIN ISHAK, AT THE OPENING OF THE ART
AND DOMESTIC SCIENCE EXHIBITION AT KAMLONG
MELAYU BOYS' SCHOOL ON SUNDAY, DEC.13, AT 10 A.M.

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I am happy to be here to open the first art and domestic science exhibition sponsored by the Singapore Young Malay Artists Group.

This Group, although it was established less than a year ago, has made active contribution to the task of creating a simple and distinct Malaysian culture. During the recent National Solidarity Week, for example, this group participated in the programme arranged by the Malay associations in Singapore. This shows that the Singapore Young Malay Artists Group has not been left behind in the effort to safeguard our national unity and also in the effort to create a common Malaysian culture.

Art is a part of culture which does not recognise racial or class distinction, nor does it discriminate between the rich and the poor or between one religion and another or between one language and another. Art is the best means of drawing the people closer together in thought and spirit; it is also the best means of expressing the peoples' will and desires and it is an expression of one's feelings and thoughts that can be understood by all the people throughout the world.

The effort launched by the Singapore Young Malay Artists Group in organising art classes, etc., is in fact an effort towards the achievement of these objectives. It is also a valuable contribution to the task of building a united Malaysia nation.

It is my hope that this group will be able to widen its scope of activities in order to serve the needs of the people in the field of art.

And now I have great pleasure in declaring open this Art and Domestic Science Exhibition.

DECEMBER 13, 1964.

(Time issued: 1800 hours)