

The 10th Malaysia Independent Chinese Secondary Schools Ball Games Championship 2023 Opening Ceremony

**Speech by: Temenggong Dato Vincent Lau Lee Ming
President of The Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary
School Management Board cum Event Organising Chairman**

Date : 27 August 2023 (Sunday)
Time : 7:00PM
Venue : DeTAR PUTRA, UNIMAS

Salam Malaysia Madani, Salam Sarawak Ku Sayang.

Good evening and welcome to Kuching, Sarawak. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome all of you coming from different parts of Malaysia for making the efforts to participate in **the 10th Malaysia Independent Chinese Secondary Schools Ball Games Championship 2023**.

This evening, we are honoured to have Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Abdul Karim Rah-man Ham-zah, Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts, as well as Minister of Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development of Sarawak, to officiate the opening ceremony.

Promoted by United Chinese School Committees' Association Of Malaysia (Dong Zong), hosted by The Sarawak United Association of Chinese School (Sarawak Dong Zong), and the Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary School Management Board, **"The 10th Malaysia Independent Chinese Secondary Schools Ball Games Championship 2023"** is jointly organised by Kuching Chung Hua Middle School No. 1, No. 3, and No. 4.

It is indeed a significant milestone for Sarawak as we host this championship for the first time.

I would like to express my heartiest congratulations to the dedicated organising committee headed by Dato Richard Wee who work round the clock to make the championship successful. The organising committee has indeed taken on the responsibility to provide the best sporting experience for the participants and spectators, especially in the post-pandemic context.

Our heartiest appreciation also goes to all who have contributed one way or another to make this championship successful.

This being the 10th triennial championship speaks for the commitment that all of us hold for the sports development of independent Chinese secondary schools. It is the strong commitment to sports, and to the development of our youth, brings all of us here.

We all know that sports plays an important role in all round education. However, there are inevitably difficult issues and challenges when it comes to promoting sports in schools. While the challenges are great, so is the commitment to find solutions.

A total of 43 schools have registered for this championship, involving nearly 1,700 participants. Nonetheless, our utmost goal is to ensure that every player is able to showcase their best abilities and skills in the ball games in a fair and just competitive environment these five days.

We are fortunate to receive strong support and generous sponsorship from both the Sarawak government and corporate sector for this championship.

I would like to extend special gratitude to the Sarawak government for generously allocating RM200,000 through the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts.

YB Dato Sri Abdul Karim's presence here this evening and the allocation not only signify the Sarawak Government's support towards sports education, but also the recognition of the contribution of Chinese education and the shared-role the government sees the Independent Chinese Secondary Schools play towards the development of our youth and the progress of our nation.

We, Sarawakians, are indeed privileged as our leaders including YB Dato Sri always speak out and hold firm stance on racial and religious tolerance, while upholding the pledges to safeguard the harmony and unity of multi-racial society in Sarawak. That is why we have become the poster children of racial and religious harmony and are envied by fellow Malaysians in other parts of the country.

At this juncture, I wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Sarawak Government for the tremendous support towards Chinese Education, in particular the 14 Independent Chinese Secondary Schools within Sarawak.

Recognition of the Unified Examinations Certificate (UEC), the acceptance of UEC holders for civil service jobs and scholarships, coupled with an annual allocation of RM10 million to support the operation of the independent Chinese secondary schools, have to a great extent propelled the development of Independent Chinese Secondary Schools as well as Chinese education in Sarawak over the last 9 years or so.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I think few will dispute that sports activities are very important for positive development of physically fit and sensible youth, who will be the future leaders of our country.

Over the course of this championship, I believe we will witness showcase of the best sports talent and performances of the highest quality. Certainly, each of the players will pit your skills and talents against your opponents from other teams.

To all the players, what is more important than winning is the sportsmanship and camaraderie. Therefore, I encourage all participants to do your best and compete in the spirit of comradeship and fair play.

In closing, I wish the 10th Malaysia Independent Chinese Secondary Schools Ball Games Championship 2023 a resounding success.

I hope you all enjoy the 5 days of Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton and Table Tennis games and have a wonderful experience in Kuching, Sarawak.

May you all stay healthy and prosperous.

Thank you.

