

**Speech by Minister of Youth and Sports
YB Brig Gen Khairy Jamaluddin
Visit of the Queen's Baton of the XXI Commonwealth Games Gold Coast 2018
19 October 2017
Galeri, Menara KBS**

Bismillahirrahmannirrahim, assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

Good Morning and Salam Negaraku Malaysia

Ms. Kerry Thompson, Team Liaison of Queen's Baton Relay Team

Tan Sri Dato' Dr. M. Jegathesan, Official Representative of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)

Dato' Lokman Hakim Ali, Secretary-general of the Ministry of Youth and Sports

Mr. Huang Ying How, chef de mission of the Malaysian contingent to the 2018 Commonwealth Games

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. It gives me great honour to host one part of the Malaysian leg of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay. I trust that the delegation from the Gold Coast 2018 QBR Team who have been here in Malaysia since the 16th have been well taken care of.
2. Indeed, I am pleased to hear that the Malaysian leg started off with a bang at the Dataran Keris in KL Sports City on Tuesday, witnessing around 500 participants including those from the various agencies under the Youth and Sports Ministry, athletes as well some of our most decorated Commonwealth Games medalist including Tan Sri Dato' Dr. M Jegathesan, Datuk James Selvaraj, Datuk N. Mirnawan Nawawi, Nurul Huda Abdullah, Ng Shu Wai, DSP Bibiana Ng Pei Chin, and many more.
3. I am told that the Queen's Baton Relay Team (QBR Team) together with the Gold Coast 2018 mascot, a koala bear named Borobi, even went to the Deepavali Open House in Brickfields yesterday morning, and had an opportunity to hand the Queen's Baton to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Y.A.B. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak. The Team then went to Raja Musa Forest Reserve in the afternoon, of which the Reserve is the Royal Commonwealth Society and The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) project.
4. And here we are today at the Malaysian Ministry of Youth and Sports. Malaysia is proud

to be the 54th country out of the 70 Commonwealth nations and territories that hosting the Baton's remarkable journey from the time it first set off on Commonwealth Day on March 13, 2017 at none other than the Buckingham Palace in United Kingdom.

5. Since that day, the Queen's Baton Relay started its 388-days journey throughout six continents and will eventually come to over 230,000 kilometres globally. Before Malaysia, the Baton has gone to the Africas, Americas, the Caribbean, Europe and now in Asia before the last leg in Oceania and finally in Australia itself.

6. The Queen's Baton Relay has a distinguished and remarkable history since it first started 60 years ago in the 1958 Cardiff Games. Ever since, the QBR has been a symbol of the coming together of the Commonwealth in anticipation of the Games. I am proud that Malaysia punctuated this rich history by being the first local organising committee in 1998 to bring the QBR beyond the United Kingdom and the host nation, traversing to close to 20 countries.

7. Like how the recently-ended Kuala Lumpur 2017 Southeast Asian and Para ASEAN Games was the first Games to hold a baton relay in all the 10 other participating countries, Malaysia is a country that is not afraid to punch above its weight and to push new frontiers.

8. The Commonwealth Games and the Commonwealth of Nations itself have always held a special place in Malaysia. Not only is Malaysia an active participant in its activities but we have also hosted several key initiatives including Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Commonwealth Youth Council - of which our own local boy Kishva Ambigapathy is the chairperson of, and the very famous 1998 Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games which is still seared in many Malaysians' minds to this day.

9. I am truly excited for the Gold Coast 2018 campaign for our Malaysian athletes which will start in 166 days. With our contingent led by the capable Mr Huang Ying How as chef de mission, I am confident that we can top our haul at the last 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games of 6 golds, 7 silvers and 6 bronzes, coming in 12th place.

10. Our athletes, our officials and the entire Malaysia will be ready as we take on Gold Coast in April 2018. I wish the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC) the very best in their preparations. Hosting a multi-sport event is not an easy task, but I am certain that the wonderful people of Gold Coast and the state of Queensland will deliver a tremendous job. I also would like to wish the QBR Team bon voyage or 'Selamat Jalan' as you head over to Brunei as your next stop on Saturday.

Thank you.