



Australian High Commission, Kuala Lumpur

# MEDIA RELEASE

23 February 2017

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

## **Australia and Malaysia sign MOU on Sports Cooperation**

On Thursday 23 February 2017, Australia and Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Sport Cooperation. Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, H.E. Mr Rod Smith, PSM and Malaysian Ministry of Youth and Sports Secretary-General, Dato' Lokman Ali Hakim signed the MOU at the Malaysian Ministry of Youth and Sports. Minister of Youth and Sports, Brigadier General H.E. Khairy Jamaluddin witnessed the signing.

The MOU was first announced by Australian Prime Minister, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP and Malaysian Prime Minister YAB Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak in November 2015 at the launch of the Australia-Malaysia Strategic Partnership. The MOU expands upon an earlier bilateral arrangement and will enable the further development of Australia and Malaysia's sporting partnership.

Australia and Malaysia share a mutual love of sports. This MOU builds upon our long and productive sporting history, and further enables the sharing of expertise, technology, programs and training opportunities across a number of sports at the elite, professional and community sporting level.

The Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. Rod Smith, said that, "this MOU will serve to bring Australia and Malaysia closer together and build upon an already vibrant and successful sporting relationship."

Under the MOU, the focus of cooperation will be on future training exchanges between athletes, coaches, sports leaders and sports scientists, as well as training and information

exchanges on sports education, management, and infrastructure development. This cooperation will further extend to anti-doping and governance programs that help promote integrity in sport.

Federal Minister for Sport, the Hon Greg Hunt MP acknowledged the Memorandum of Understanding on Sport Cooperation with Malaysia presents an opportunity to strengthen connections in relation to sport, particularly at a time of upcoming events on the Commonwealth sporting calendar.

“With the Queens Baton Relay passing through Malaysia from 16-21 October this year, a great opportunity presents itself to showcase our mutual interest in sport.”

“I look forward to seeing the Malaysian team performing at the Sudirman Cup in May and next year at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games,” Minister Hunt said.