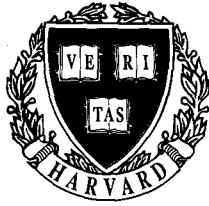




**BEST OF HARVARD CLUB
OF MALAYSIA
SPEECHES**



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by Tan Sri Dato Seri Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid

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PREFACE

This book contains the finest speeches delivered at the Harvard Club of Malaysia functions. The Club organises the 'Prime Ministerial Address' annually, to coincide with its annual general meeting.

The Harvard Club of Malaysia was formed by a group of Malaysian graduates of Harvard University with the objective of providing assistance to potential students who intend to study at Harvard and to bring graduates and friends of Harvard together to exchange views and opinions on current affairs.

The Club's annual activities include talks by outstanding personalities, visits and friendly encounters with other Harvard Clubs in the region, sponsorship of cultural programmes particularly music and fine arts and organising public forums on topics of current interest. The Club's "educational programme" has the twin-objective of bringing special programmes not available in Malaysia from Harvard's various schools and utilising the proceeds from such programmes to the Club's foundation fund.



Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid
PRESIDENT,
HARVARD CLUB OF MALAYSIA
27th April 1993

Preface

THE SPEECHES in this third volume—like the first two—gather around a common theme. This time it is our country's rebirth from crisis. We Filipinos are back in business at the heart of the world's fastest-growing region. Once again we're ready to pull our weight in East Asian cooperation—and to account for ourselves in the world.

Our time for takeoff has *not* come too soon. For us to achieve self-sustaining growth is desperately urgent—not only because we lag badly in East Asia's race for development but because our patient people have endured their poverty much too long.

My Administration has focused both domestic and foreign policy on economic growth. At home we have sensitized economic policy to the well-being of the majority among us who are without the means to lead decent and useful lives. Abroad we now count our membership in ASEAN as our foremost commitment. In November I attended the first leaders' meeting of APEC—Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation—in Seattle. In Washington President Bill Clinton and I inaugurated a new partnership between our countries.

We have committed our country to the ASEAN Free Trade Area—and to its ideal of open regionalism. And we are redefining our concept of nationalism. Far too long, Filipino nationalism has been introspective and unsure of itself.

In the postwar period, we had mistakenly equated nationalism with economic self-sufficiency, and shut our doors against

foreign investment and multinational industry. Meanwhile our vigorous neighbors were measuring themselves against the best in the world.

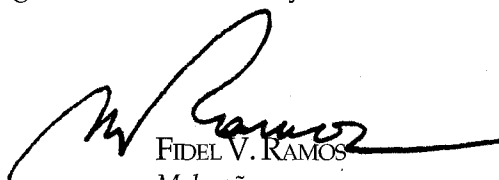
Over the past 20 months, we have painstakingly prepared the ground for takeoff. We have restored political stability. We are agreed on an economic vision for our country; and we have reached a consensus on the structural reforms to make that vision of "Philippines 2000" a reality.

Best of all, we have regained our national sense of purpose. We have arrested the decline of the national spirit which had so demoralized our people.

We have also redefined the relationship between Government and the private sector. If the State was the monkey on the back of business, now it is determined to create the climate in which individual enterprise can flourish. It sees its job as providing effective government—to establish the rule of law, and to build the infrastructure that business cannot build for itself.

We acknowledge the power of self-interest in generating development. But we also insist the pursuit of profit must be mitigated by a sense of civic responsibility. We regard private wealth as a public stewardship. We Filipinos have always accepted that people with *more* are obliged to help people with *less*—in recognition of a common humanity. This traditional moral code we shall make a principle of public policy.

The way ahead is clear. We must do what our neighbors did—modernize without giving up our cultural values; develop on our own terms. Confidently, in unity of purpose, and trusting in God's grace, let us go to meet our destiny.



FIDEL V. RAMOS
Malacañang
18 March 1994