

14/11/2002

PRTC to strive harder to reach underprivileged and disabled

THE Perak Turf Club (PRTC) aims to improve racing, change the character and image of the club from just being a centre of gambling to a vibrant and progressive organisation to a charity-minded club.

Tan Sri V. Jeyaratnam, chairman of the club said in a Press statement that since becoming chairman 19 years back, his principle aim was to change the image of the club into an organisation concerned not only with horse racing as a sport but also a caring club rendering help to the disabled and the needy and providing family values and social activities.

He said: "The club has distinguished itself throughout the years in its contribution to charity. Every year we have a family day organised by the Pan Malaysian Pools and the PRTC where children of all races including the underprivileged and disabled are entertained at the club grounds with horse riding and other fun filled activities. All are given a gift and provided with food and refreshments.

"Apart from that we are also involved in other charitable activities in order to reach out to the poor, the needy, and the underprivileged. The club has also held many large scale fund raising activities to help alleviate the sufferings of the poor and the needy.

"Annually we hold the Charity Cup race, which was mooted to help the poor. This race is held in conjunction with the Coronation Cup race which is the most prestigious race in our racing calendar. On this day after the conclusion of the Charity Cup race, several tens of charitable organisations and centres in Perak are given donations of about RM200,000 to RM350,000.

"The club also assists the Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah, one of the leading establishments for the rehabilitation of the disabled in the country. The Yayasan has given rehabilitation treatment to some 4,500 people including children, and enabled several of them to lead meaningful lives. In helping out Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah in their rehabilitation work, the club has provided a large bungalow within its premises, equipped with well-trained staff and proper equipment, and pays for the maintenance of the building.

On his future plans of the club, Jeyaratnam said: "I personally would like to see the club pursue greater heights, not just as a place merely for racing, but expand out social activities in order to reach out further to help the poor, the underprivileged and the disabled.

"In this respect racial integration is vital. In line with the thinking of our Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, racial integration of our multi-ethnic and multi-religious communities should be fostered, inculcated, and instilled among our population.

On racial integration, he said: "Racial integration has always been a primary concern of the club. The club employs both directly and indirectly some 1,500 employees of various races who work in peace and harmony. The professionals in the club such as trainers and jockeys also work in close co-operation and harmony. Every step is taken by the management to ensure that this state of good inter-racial relationship is maintained."

The club has the largest population of horses and the biggest number of trainers. It has an equine swimming pool, sand and turf tracks, is the only club that caters for straight races, has a fully equipped Equine Hospital within it's premises and an equestrian riding school.