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SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,  
TO ROTARIANS AT THE SELANGOR CLUB,  
KUALA LUMPUR, ON 6TH JULY, 1962

Mr President, Your Excellencies, Honourable Mentri Besar, Selangor<sup>1</sup>, Rotarians, Fellow Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be asked to reply on behalf of the guests here this evening and also a great honour to stand here as the representative of so many distinguished guests.

Firstly, Mr President, we, your guests, are really most grateful for a delightful evening and a delightful dinner.

I remember, last year, at your International Rotary Conference, which was held in Kuala Lumpur, your Governor, Tuan Haji Mustapha Albakri, said that "Rotary in Malaya was expanding both vertically and horizontally".

I, at the time, did not realise the full implication of what he meant by expanding horizontally because having enjoyed, as an Honorary Rotarian, your excellent Dinner tonight, I feel too, that I myself have expanded slightly horizontally.

However, Mr President, joking apart, I should like to say how glad I am to see that Rotary Clubs in Malaya are really thriving and expanding, are rendering a great service to our Community, and are making a considerable contribution towards our National Development.

I believe one definition of an after-dinner speaker is a person who has only a few words to say but seldom stops when he has said them.

It is therefore not my intention to give you a long lecture on National Development but I do feel that the spirit of Rotary, the aims and ideals which it strives for, can in fact make a tremendous contribution to our National Development.

As you know, the main National task before us at the present time is implementation of our Five Year Development Plan and it

<sup>1</sup> Y.B. Dato Abu Bakar bin Baginda.

is on the success of this Plan that the future prosperity of Malaya depends.

But so many people tend to forget that in such a Plan for Development there are separate sectors.

There is the Public Sector, which is Government's responsibility to implement its programme of such essentials as Health, Education, Roads, Bridges, etc., but, equally important in our Plan is what we call the Private Sector.

This Private Sector is the development of Commerce and Industry, the development of sound and stable trade, and the encouragement of free and progressive enterprise; and it appears to me that the aims of Rotary are the very aims which, if they permeated each and every aspect of the Private Sector of our National Economy, would do much towards producing the right spirit, the right attitude of mind and the right contribution to our task of Nation-Building.

The aims of Rotary, as I understand them, are

Firstly, the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Secondly, high ethical standards in businesses and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation to be used as an opportunity to serve Society;

Thirdly, the application of the ideal of Service by every Rotarian to his personal business and community life; and

Fourthly, the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a Fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of Service.

These are the very aims and ideals we need here and now in every single industry and business house in Malaya and not only just round the table of Rotary Clubs.

What I would like to see is the application of these principles to be applied to each and every industry and business at present functioning within our domestic economy so that the Leaders of all

our National industries and the Captains of our Commerce can get together with one Team and with one Heart to set up on their own a machinery which will harness the best brains and the best thinkers in the Private Sector and crystallise their efforts into a definite boosting charge which will put our Economic Development into even more progressive motion.

If these were done and, at the same time, the principles of Rotary applied to this action then, I think, it would result in the rendering of a great and necessary Service to our Nation.

Now, Mr President, let me turn to you and your Predecessor, the past President.

The most striking difference between you both appears to be that he says he is a lonely bachelor whereas you, as a young old man, have enjoyed marriage to one of the most charming women of our country.

I cannot draw comparisons between the merits of marriage and bachelordom here tonight because if I did I would suffer, when I return home later this evening.

Let it be sufficient for me to say that I did enjoy my days in Lipis when we were bachelors together; and as we have so many wives here tonight, perhaps I could convey to them the advice which I overheard, by chance, when two wives were talking together.

The first wife, young and newly married, was very upset and worried and she said to her older companion that her husband sometimes came back very late from work and she worried because she did not even know where he was.

The second wife, an older woman of experience, said to her, "You should not worry where he is because if you really knew where these husbands go to sometimes, you would be even more worried".

The moral of that story addressed particularly to ladies here tonight is not to worry too much.

And, finally, let me turn to my fellow guests and before I ask them to stand up to drink a toast to our hosts, let me say, fellow

guests, that we have excellent hosts here tonight and if any guest should disagree, let me remind him of the works of Shakespeare when he defined a good host.

He said, "A good host is like a good man. He is judged by the company he keeps".

We are our hosts' company tonight and it is on our merits or demerits that our hosts are judged.

Let us be up standing and give them a toast—our hosts.