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**SPEECH BY Y.A.B. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL DINNER OF
THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, MALAYSIA
AT THE BANQUET ROOM, FEDERAL HOTEL ON
SATURDAY, 23RD APRIL, 1966.**

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As this is the year in which we have launched the First Malaysia Plan, I am particularly glad to be accorded this opportunity to address you at your 7th Annual Dinner. Our country has made notable progress in many areas of economic and social development. Our people enjoy a relatively high standard of living and an atmosphere of social harmony in a multi-racial society. Nevertheless, there are many economic and social problems outstanding and much work to be done. The First Malaysia Plan seeks to attack these problems through a carefully conceived and vigorously executed effort at planned social and economic development. The successful implementation of this Plan be it in the fields of agriculture and rural development, in manufacturing, mining, transport and communications, utilities, education, social services, health and even in family planning, will require the services of members of the engineering profession. The crucial role of engineers in the next decade cannot be over-emphasised as the Government is committed to a greater development effort to transform the country and particularly the rural sector and the Borneo states into a more progressive economy and thus lay the foundation for further and stable economic growth. Therefore, in toasting to the success of your Institution, I am in fact also toasting to the success of this bold and realistic First Malaysia Plan which the Government has launched.

Owing to the need to provide for the expansion of defence of our country, the task of financing the public sector development expenditure programme will be more difficult than in the last five years. We will, therefore, have to tax not only the engineer's technical expertise but also his ability to arrive at the most economical solution to every engineering problem. It is indeed gratifying to

hear from your President that in your Institution no one can rightly call himself an engineer unless he could do satisfactorily for \$1/-, what other people would need twice that sum.

Though this is the 7th year of your Institution, you already have a record which you all can justly be proud of. In 1961, scarcely two years after inception, your Institution was admitted as a full member of the Commonwealth Engineering Conference. This means not only international recognition of your Institution as the national professional body of Malaysia but also recognition of the high standards which you uphold both in professional conduct and in the training of your members. Therefore, it was with the greatest pleasure that the Government recognised corporate membership of your Institution as sufficient qualification for entry into the public service.

Your Institution, I believe has assisted a committee convened by the Ministry of Works¹ in the drafting of the Engineers Bill which is aimed at protecting the interest and welfare of the public.

It is a happy augury for the future of our country to have professional men whose primary concern is in the welfare and problems of the society in which they live and for whose betterment their professional expertise is devoted.

If you maintain the admirable aims which you have laid down in your Constitution, I have no doubt, your Institution will grow from strength to strength.

¹ Tun V.T. Sambanthan, S.S.M.