

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT
THE PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION DINNER
GIVEN BY THE ROTARY CLUB, AT THE
SELANGOR CLUB, KUALA LUMPUR ON 7TH
JULY, 1961

Mr President, Your Highnesses¹, Your Excellencies, Rotarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is customary for any speaker asked to reply to the toast of "The Guests" to say a few remarks about each of the principal guests. In doing so he is expected modestly to disclaim any compliments he might have received himself, and to offer lighter comments on the people and the occasion. In addition, he has to speak more or less immediately after the member chosen to propose the toast of "The Guests", and knowing too that he himself is usually the last speaker of the evening.

This is the normal social custom in Rotary, and at practically every important dinner held by any organisation, but I would like to ask, just for once, "Is it cricket?" If you say it is cricket, then I must take the first chance I have to read once again "Alice in Wonderland", or should it be "Alice through the Looking Glass?"

After all, the last speaker has to act as batsman for the guests; he is on their side. He also has to act as bowler to reduce any scores against them, and finally he must be a fielder to catch and return the quips and judgements of a player like Dr Sodhy. And he is asked to be a batsman, a bowler and a fielder, not separately but at the same time—and on top of that to carry out this all-round performance in a few minutes so that all the players can go home. So you see what I mean by referring to "Alice".

Joking apart, I am sure I speak for all the guests when I say that we are very happy indeed to be invited to join in the fellowship of this annual occasion for the installation of the new President of the Kuala Lumpur Rotary Club.

1 D.Y.M.M. Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah ibni Al-marhum Sultan Hishamuddin Alam Shah.

One reason why we are happy to be here is that the Kuala Lumpur Rotary Club is the oldest in the Federation of Malaya, the proud grandfather of twenty Rotary Clubs. Another reason is that all your guests—whether they are Honorary Rotarians, like myself, or not—are very pleased to pay our individual tributes to the international ideal of Rotary, which is "Service before Self".

This is very understandable, because if there is one quality shared by your guests tonight it is that they all live and act in their lives in the same spirit of "Service before Self".

You see this quality most warmly expressed by Their Highnesses the Sultan and Tengku Ampuan of Selangor. Their recent Coronation, in the joy of which we all share, is a ceremonial expression of their tireless and sincere devotion to their State and people. Not only the Rotary Club, but also the other guests, are honoured by their presence here tonight.

Their Excellencies the High Commissioner for India² and the Ambassador for the United States³ and their wives again exemplify the spirit of "Service before Self". Their lives and careers are dedicated not to self-advancement but to the service of their countries and to the cause of international peace, friendship and goodwill.

The same quality of "Service before Self" is equally evident in the persons of the Mentri Besar, Selangor⁴, and his wife. Everyone in Kuala Lumpur, and in the State of Selangor, is well aware that the Datuk and the Datin spare no efforts, and do not spare themselves, for the service of the State.

All your guests tonight, therefore, are in full accord and harmony with the members of Rotary in their belief that it is the duty and the creed of every man of goodwill to do whatever he humanly can to make this world we share a better place in which to live and work, in peace and happiness. Each in his own way can do his best for Malaya, for his State or country, or for this capital City.

This spirit of service and self-help that the Government would like to instil on everyone not only the leaders of communities, members of the public service and other citizens of this country

2 His Excellency Shri Y. K. Puri.

3 His Excellency Mr Charles F. Baldwin.

4 Y.B. Datuk Abu Bakar bin Baginda.

but all those who live in the faraway places throughout this country. If we in Malaya desire to have peace and prosperity, to maintain and improve our standard of living and to play our full part in the community of nations then this spirit of service must be spread out throughout the country and must be instilled in the hearts and mind of everyone of us.

In the implementation of our national development plans I have stressed more than once the desirability of the spirit of service and self-help. It is only by full mobilization of this spirit, the resources and energies of our people can we make this country a better and happier place for us and our children to live in.

That is why I am very grateful to the Rotary Club for leadership and example that they have shown in spreading out this spirit of service and I speak tonight in full confidence that the Kuala Lumpur Rotary Club will continue to devote itself to acts of usefulness and thoughtfulness in the coming years.

On behalf of the guests, I wish the Kuala Lumpur Rotary Club, especially its members, every success in its new Rotary year and to express our gratitude for the opportunity to share the very pleasant evening.