

**ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION
PERSEKUTUAN TANAH MELAYU AT THE
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, SHELLEY ROAD,
KUALA LUMPUR ON 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1963**

Datuk Chairman, State Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me very great pleasure once again as your National President to welcome you all this evening to the Annual General Meeting 1963 of our National Association. In fact, I must first of all apologise to you for having postponed this meeting twice as I had to be away from the country on State duties—the first time being away in USA and UK and on the second occasion I had to go to Manila. I must thank you all for your patience and to be here today to conduct this meeting.

I am also very delighted to see you all here from places far and near and your presence clearly indicates the keen interest that you are all taking in this movement for the benefit of our youths to be better citizens of tomorrow.

I am very proud to say that our Association is progressing and this clearly shows that everyone along the line is doing his or her part. It is gratifying to note from the Annual Report that each year the number of classes have increased and above all the number of recipients of certificates too has also increased. In fact, within five years—between 1958 and 1962 our number of recipients has nearly trebled including the Cadet Proficiency Certificates. This is a very encouraging sign. The more citizens that we train the more useful they will be to our country.

In this connection, I wish to thank all State Associations, Doctors, Lay Lecturers and Examiners for their excellent work that they are doing. I am proud to state that the number of

Lay Lecturers has also greatly increased in most States. It is needless for me to say at this point how useful are these Lay Lecturers to us since they reduce most of the burden for our Doctors who are so busy. I earnestly hope that there will be an increase in the number of Lay Lecturers next year.

I am indeed very happy to read from the Annual Report that we now have our Association functioning in all the States. In fact, when I took over the Presidency of this Association in 1957 when there were three States not represented on the main Committee. But today they are here as our equal partners doing the good work of the Order of St. John.

I take this opportunity in extending our heartiest congratulations to the Perak Association for celebrating their Silver Jubilee Anniversary and I hope that I will be still with you all to enjoy their Diamond Jubilee. In fact, I visited their Headquarters and I was greatly impressed by their building and the good work that they are doing there.

I hope to visit more of our State Associations during the course of my duty and to see the good work they are doing there.

I am also glad to note that in most States very good work has been done in Kampong and villages in giving lectures and demonstrations in First Aid and Home Nursing.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate our Brigade Officers and members for their devotion to duty and in keeping the St. John Flag flying. I have seen the Brigade members in their white uniform at all official functions, at various national meetings, at indoor and outdoor gatherings doing their duty earnestly and faithfully. I am sure with the coming Malaysia celebrations a lot of burden will fall on our willing members to perform first aid duties and I am confident that they will be there to do their "Service to Mankind".

With the coming of Malaysia, I hope that the States will join and form one Malaysian St. John Co-ordinating Committee to further the interests of the Order in this part of the world. I am sure that when ideas from these States are pooled by both the Association and Brigade then our advancement will be rapid.

Finally, I take this Opportunity to thank the Central, Executive, Flag Day and Management Headquarters Building Committees and the various other Sub-Committees of our Association for the valuable work that they have done for the past year and wish the new incoming Committee will work with vigour and keep up the excellent name of the Association. However, I feel that I should thank the trio once again—our capable Chairman, Datuk S. M. Yong for his excellent manner he had been running the affairs of the Association and incidentally, I take this opportunity in extending to the Datuk our heartiest congratulations for being awarded the s.M.s. by H.H. the Sultan of Selangor. Then I wish to thank our conscientious Secretary, Mr. Paramasivam for keeping the administrative side of the Association up and to our careful Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Azariah for the safe keeping of the accounts.

Well, I shall not keep you long as I know we have a heavy programme before us, including the Dinner and Dance tonight.

Once again Ladies and Gentlemen, before I take my seat and before we proceed with the business of the day, my earnest appeal to each and everyone is to give your continued support to the Association and Brigade.