

A BROADCAST APPEAL BY  
THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND PATRON OF  
THE NATIONAL CANCER SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA OVER TV  
MALAYSIA AND RADIO MALAYSIA  
IN CONNECTION WITH CANCER WEEK  
FROM NOVEMBER 2-8, 1967

**T**he National Cancer Society of Malaysia is launching a Cancer Week which is to last from 2nd November, 1967 till the 8th November, 1967. The purpose of holding this Cancer Week is to make the public aware of the work of the Society as well as to collect funds. The launching of this Cancer Week is another milestone in the history of the Society which was formed only last year.

During the Cancer Week a varied programme has been arranged to educate the public in the many aspects of this disease. There will be articles on Cancer in the daily newspapers of the country, film shows on television as well as talks over the radio. There will be a Flag Day on the 4th of November when flags will be sold and pamphlets on Cancer distributed to the public. The Cancer Week would end on the 8th of November with a Charity Film Premiere of the M.G.M film 'The Dirty Dozen' at the Pavilion Theatre. Their Majesties D.Y.M.M Yang di-Pertuan Agong<sup>1</sup> and Raja Permaisuri Agong<sup>2</sup> have graciously consented to attend the Film Premiere.

Cancer, as you know, has become the second highest cause of death and in the future is likely to be the Number 1 killer. Cancer claims five million new cases every year. It attacks people of every walk of life with no respect for race, colour, creed or wealth. The number of cases contracting this disease is increasing year by year. This increase of the incidence of Cancer is to be expected as it is mainly a disease of the older age group. As our living standards and health services improve, the life expectancy of our people increases, and as such more and more people join the older age group with a consequential rise in the incidence of Cancer.

Cancer, however, can be cured if diagnosed early and treatment sought. Twenty years ago only 1 out of 6 cancer patients were cured. Ten years ago 2 out of 6 were cured and at present 3 out of 6 are being cured. This figure can be improved considerably if the public were made aware of the common signs of this disease so that they may seek early treatment.

The government has always appreciated this problem and has provided the necessary facilities for the treatment of Cancer patients. However, though the Government can provide facilities for treatment, the community itself must co-operate with the Government in its war against Cancer. Unless the public are

1. D.Y.M.M. Seri Paduka Baginda Tuanku Nasiruddin Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Zainal Abidin
2. Tengku Intan Zaharah binti Al-Marhum Tengku Sri Setia Raja.

educated in the facts of Cancer and are made aware of the fact that Cancer if detected early can be cured completely, the facilities provided by the Government will not be used as it should be. The public should be taught that contrary to the popular belief Cancer is not a killer always. If a Cancer sufferer seeks medical treatment early, the chances of a complete cure is good.

The National Cancer Society of Malaysia is launching the Cancer Week to educate the public about the facts of Cancer as well as to collect funds. This is a very praiseworthy effort for besides achieving the aim of educating the public, the money so collected will go a long way to assist patients to seek early treatment so that they would have a better chance of a cure. The Cancer Society during its short history has helped a large number of patients financially and otherwise so that they could seek early treatment and have a better chance of a cure. I have been told that the number of Cancer patients seeking treatment have increased by at least 20% mainly due to the work of this Society. This is a very noteworthy effort on the part of the Society and as such I appeal to you all to donate generously to the National Cancer Society of Malaysia so that they would be able to undertake this all important task of helping persons inflicted by this dreadful disease.