

members. Therefore it was with the greatest pleasure that my Government recognises the corporate membership of your Institution to be sufficient qualification for entry into the public service.

Having said that I still cannot sit down and in case you misrepresent my praise and sit back on your laurels of past achievements.

A great task lies ahead for all of you in the implementation of our National Development Plan and I hope that from time to time when you have meetings of your Institution, you would take as a subject for discussion and action a copy of the First Malaysia Plan and sit down together, study it, discuss it and argue about it and see for yourselves ways and means whereby you can equip yourselves to give even greater service in your profession towards the achievement of our national aims and the guaranteeing of our national progress.

DESPITE THE CRITICISMS MALAYSIA HAS GROWN CONSIDERABLY

"True to the principle of parliamentary democracy. our people can always, if they wish, criticise the government but this has not hampered the progress of the country said Tun Razak when he spoke at the sixth anniversary dinner of the Malayan Association of Chartered Institute of Secretaries on 18th June. 1966.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you know, at this very moment Parliament is debating the Royal Address and the debate on the Royal Address can be said to be an inquest of the nation and of the country.

In the last few days, sitting in Parliament. I felt myself like a goal-keeper in a football match. Continuous attempts were made to shoot at the goal, not only from the opposite side. i.e.. from the Opposition Party, but sometimes, either intentionally or inadvertently, the kicks also came from members of my own team. So as a "goal-keeper". I had to be continually on the alert. I wished that I were an expert at keeping goal as some of the goal-keepers I have seen at international football matches!

Ladies and Gentlemen, we believe in the principle of parliamentary democracy and our people, whether they be Members of the Opposition Parties or not, have the right to criticise the Government from time to time. However, despite these criticisms. I can say with modesty that during the nine years since we achieved independence, our country Malaya, and now Malaysia, has grown considerably, both in strength and in purpose.

In 1957. when we first achieved independence, we had to face an Emergency brought about by militant communism from within the country. We were able to bring an end to this fight successfully in July. 1960. Then, after a few years of peace, when we established Malaysia in September. 1963. we were faced with another Emergency. This time from outside, the Indonesian confrontation.

During both these emergencies, our people of all races stood solidly behind the Government with the result that we were able to ride through the two emergencies victoriously, and we emerged through these ordeals and convulsions more determined than to uphold the principle on which we stand; the principle which our Government strongly believes in; the principle of democracy, of freedom, of justice and of fair-play for all.

It is because we strongly uphold this principle that as a small nation we had been looked upon as an example to other nations. Indeed, today our country is being held in high esteem and admiration in many parts of the world for the way in which our people of various races are able to carry out its policies with dignity, with fairness and justice. and. despite difficulties and confrontation, our Government has been able to give our people in all walks of life a share of the happiness that they have longed for.

My task today is like the first runner in a relay of torch bearers. I called this meeting to light the flame of determination **and** enthusiasm so that you in turn may carry it. in relays, down through all levels of your Departments. This flame must be kept burning throughout the whole period of the implementation of our Development Plan, and never be allowed to die.

— *Tun Razak in a talk to heads of Federal and State Departments in February, 1961.*