

SPEECH BY THE HON'BLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
AT THE SIXTH ANNUAL DINNER OF THE INSTITUTION  
OF SURVEYORS AT THE LAKE CLUB, KUALA LUMPUR  
ON 17TH JUNE 1967

---

**Mr. President, Ladies & Gentlemen;**

I am indeed happy to be with you tonight and I would like to thank the President and the Committee very much indeed for their kind invitation for me to be present at this, your Institution's Sixth Annual Dinner.

Although tonight I have a concurrent engagement, I decided to be with you here because the interests and welfare of surveyors throughout the country and of your Institution have a special place in my heart, for no one knows more than I do the great part that the surveyors have played in the development of our country. When I launched the Rural Development Plan in 1961, it was the surveyors that I first made the appeal to re-double their efforts to clear the areas of land alienation and to speed up the Government Land Development Schemes throughout the country. You had responded to my call with devotion and complete loyalty. After a few years, it was found that the surveyors throughout the country were able to put their work up-to-date. It was a great achievement and this fact was not much known in the country. That is why, I take this opportunity tonight to make a special mention.

Your President was right when he said despite the fact that your profession is the second oldest profession in the world, you are not enjoying the social prestige and the glamour that members of some other professions enjoy. However, I will advise you not to worry very much about the glamour or publicity. I belong to a profession that is always in the glare of publicity, and I spend half of my time in trying to run from Office and the other half running for cover, i.e., to defend one's actions and activities. What is most important in life is not whether people know what you do but the knowledge and the satisfaction that you obtain in doing your best in your job.

I do not wish to contradict your statement that your profession is the second oldest in the world. However, I certainly know what is the oldest profession in the world and I know you all know also. So in a way, you are lucky to be the second oldest and not the oldest profession in the world. You are also lucky for not being one of the youngest professions in the world, certainly the newest in Malaysia to-

day. Some of you may not read the Utusan Melayu, but I will tell you what I read in the newspaper a week or so ago. There is today a group of educated Malay housewives in Kuala Lumpur who have banded themselves together to form an Association called 'The Taming the Husbands Action Group' or 'Kumpulan Bertindak Mengawal Suami'. The name of the Association itself clearly indicates its objective. While I agree that some husbands need to be tamed, but a good husband like myself would certainly exclude my wife from being a member of this Group. Looking you all tonight, I have no doubt that your wives will also have no need to join this Association as you all seem to me to be a rather tamed group. If the wives belong to this action group, then clearly the husband will have to spend their time washing dishes while the wives visit the hair-dressers.

As I said, members of your profession - the land surveyors, the quantity surveyors and the general practice surveyors - have made a great contribution to the progress of our country and have played an important part in the implementation of our Development Plans. There is hardly any Development project in which you surveyors have no part to play. I am sure some of you here who had during the last 5 or 6 years spent your time on the ground and have now been promoted to senior posts in the Headquarters, can look back with satisfaction the part you had to play in the progress of our people and the development of our country.

The last ten years since we achieved independence have really been great and eventful years - a decade of solid progress and development. In two months' time, we shall be celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of our Merdeka. A decade is not a long time in the life of a nation, but during this decade, Malaya and now Malaysia, had achieved great progress in all fields in economic development, agricultural production, education, health and social services and indeed in all fields of human activities. All these have been possible because of political stability which is the product of good government under the Alliance, and dedication and devotion shown by the members of the public service.

Everywhere we go in our country, whether in the town or village, or in the remotest hamlet, we can see changes. We can see the spirit and the wind of change. Our people of all races are responding to this change and are beginning to play their part in improving their own standard of living. Indeed, we have laid the foundation and the infrastructure of sound economic and social progress. Whatever the future may bring, we can look forward with confidence as we can look with back with satisfaction to our past achievements.

However, the next decade in the history of our young nation will certainly bring with it many problems and difficulties which must be

overcome. During the last two days, Parliament has been debating His Majesty's speech from the Throne. The gracious speech had made it clear that during the last ten years, we were able to achieve great economic and social progress while at the same time maintaining economic and financial stability. Now, due to many factors, the government and the country are facing financial difficulties. It is therefore necessary for us to exercise financial discipline to reduce unnecessary expenditure, to see that we do carry out projects which can bring greater revenue and larger income. In the implementation of this policy, the Government must look to the public service for full and complete co-operation. It is clear that if we want to maintain the progress that we have achieved and to enjoy the standard of living that we are now enjoying, we must not only tighten our belts but also exert greater efforts - efforts not only by industrialists, scientists, agriculturists and other, to increase productivity, but also by all of us, whatever our position in life may be. It is only by each and everyone of us to show our determination to work ever harder to increase output, can we expect to generate economic growth and income.

As I said, there have been great changes in the country and in the lives of our people since we achieved independence. These changes indicate quite clearly to all of us that in an independent country, the bounds of progress that we can achieve are limitless and the only limit is our personal efforts and energy to achieve this progress. Also, these changes provide a challenge to all of us that if we are to maintain these changes and progress that we have achieved, we must be prepared to work harder.

The aim of the Alliance Government which I always ask you all to support is to create opportunities for all our people of various races to bring them together. It is therefore necessary for us to help the less fortunate of our people so that they will have a proper place in our country. It is only when these inequalities and imbalances are remedied, can we have a happy and united people.

I have always stated that our country Malaysia is a rich country, rich in natural resources and rich in manpower. It is therefore our duty to make the best use of all these resources to train our people in new methods and techniques and to make the best use of the knowledge that science has provided. It is only by this way can we make the best use of our physical as well as human resources, to bring our people forward to greater development and greater prosperity.

These are the challenges facing all of us today - to improve public facilities and to create new and additional economic opportunities so that each Malaysian family can have a decent standard of living. We have the opportunity to assess the functions of Government in the task

before us. While I personally believe that the Government must take a leading part, which it is doing, in National and Rural Development, but to make the plans more successful, we also require capital investment and the help of private sector, of commerce and industry and greater resources of State Governments. Even with all these, complete success can only be guaranteed if there is initiative and good leadership of the local people. Let us commit our skills, thoughts, imaginations and powers to the fulfillment of these goals. Let us therefore seek task to fit our talents rather than pray our talents fit the duties entrusted to us.

Ladies and Gentlemen, once agains I thank you all very much for your attention and for inviting my wife and myself to this Dinner.