

UCAPAN PERDANA MENTERI, DI MAJLIS
PERAYAAN JUBLI EMAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF KING EDWARD VII COLLEGE OF
MEDICINE AND FACULTY OF MEDICINE,
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA AND UNIVERSITY
OF SINGAPORE DI HOTEL HILTON, KUALA
LUMPUR PADA 7HB DISEMBER, 1973

Dr Tow Siang Yew, Presiden Alumni Association; Y.B. Tan Sri Lee Siok Yew,¹ Y.A.B. Dato' Haji Harun,² Dif-dif Terhormat, Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan,

Saya sukalah terlebih dahulu mengucapkan berbilang terima-kasih kepada tuan-tuan semua, khasnya kepada Presiden Alumni Association of King Edward VII College of Medicine and Faculty of Medicine University of Malaya dan University of Singapore kerana sudi menjemput kami berdua ke majlis Reunion serta Perayaan Golden Jubilee Alumni Association malam ini.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful to the Alumni Association for giving me the opportunity to meet so many members of the Association—many of whom are old friends and acquaintances either of pre-war Raffles College days, or while I was serving the Government of Pahang. Therefore, this occasion tonight is not only a reunion of members of the Alumni but also for me a reunion with old friends and acquaintances whom I seldom have the occasion of meeting except a few of them from time to time at the RSGC.

I would like to take this opportunity on the occasion of this Golden Jubilee to congratulate those members of the Alumni who have given splendid services to the country and also to your noble profession and humanity. It must be a matter of some pride to you all that King Edward VII College of Medicine during the colonial days was an important centre of higher education which later together with Raffles College became the University of Malaya in 1949.

¹ Y.B. Menteri Kesihatan.

² Y.B. Menteri Besar Selangor.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You would agree with me that a Reunion Dinner such as this is not the occasion for speech making; in fact, it would be more appropriate for reminiscing and talking about old times, especially when we have in our midst old stalwarts like Professor Sandosham, who, I am told, is the life spirit and never lacking in anecdotes or Sandy's spice as some of you say. Perhaps I am not letting the cat out of the bag if I were to announce tonight that the Parasitology Society has something in store for him when they meet next month.

I remember Professor Sandosham's definition of domestic harmony in married life. According to him, the definition of domestic harmony is music produced with the husband playing the second fiddle. I hope those newly married and those who intend to get married should bear this definition in mind.

Coming back to this evening's do, I have much praise and admiration for the spirit of comradeship which prevails and is continuously sustained in the Alumni, particularly among those of pre-war—and immediately postwar-vintage. Perhaps it is the rugged discipline on the playing field and in the corridors at Sepoy Lines that brought this about. I am happy to say that some pre-war Raffles of my generation still manage to meet together once a year over dinner, but, of course, without the elaborate paraphernalia and the fanfare. Yet, at least, it is something that we—I mean the Old Raffles—are proud of as a challenge to the present.

Talking about pre-war Medical College and Raffles College, the only occasion I had of visiting Medical College was during the football session of 1940-1941, when we had to play the annual soccer match between Raffles and Medical on the Medical College's ground. We managed, to the great annoyance of the Medical, to beat them by a solitary goal. I had the privilege of scoring that goal. The occasion was unforgettable for me because when the ball passed the Goalkeeper and touched the net, I was just as surprised as anybody else.

I am told that University of Malaya Graduates Society which, considering the number of recent graduates alone, can rally a membership of several hundreds, if not a few thousand, can count itself lucky if more than twenty people attend its function.

Surely this is a sad state of affairs. I would have thought that our graduates—particularly the Arts and Sciences—should emulate

the Alumni and instil a deeper sense of belonging among themselves. There is no denying the fact that most of them are serving the society in one way or another, in government or in the private sector. But there is more to this, and I believe a lot has to be done and can be done in the way of paying back service to the University such as the Student Loan Fund, or endowing a Chair or even a modest Book Prize. Perhaps those from University of Science or University Kebangsaan can show a better example.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Alumni Association, as the President said just now, has indeed played a very useful role and I hope it will continue to do so in the years to come. Your journal already earns high respect as a professional publication, much due to the painstaking efforts of your members who carry out original research in their respective branches of medicine. I for one can feel proud of being associated with your progress and achievements. To commemorate the occasion of this Golden Jubilee, I hope the Alumni will consider embarking on some worthy project, perhaps an Alumni Centre like the one in Singapore. In this respect, I think it is time the younger generation of doctors rise up to this challenge especially when your number will continue to grow with each batch of graduates very year. Surely there is a "Sandy" in the making from among you, or another "Koko" bred in the environment of Pantai Valley.

Talking about medical graduates, reminds me of a story of a doctor's daughter who wanted to marry a young fellow whom the doctor did not like and he told her so. He said the fellow was worthless and inclined towards obesity and would be a burden to any young woman who married him. But the daughter kept on seeing the young fellow. The doctor one day said to the daughter, "Apparently what I said carries no weight to you." He retorted, "I wish you would tell that fellow my opinion of him". The daughter replied, "I did". "And what did he say," asked the doctor. She replied, "He said it was not the first wrong diagnosis you had made".

Talking about diagnosis, after completing his examination of a patient, the doctor said, "I can't find the cause of your complaint. Perhaps it's due to drinking." "It's alright, doctor," said the patient

understandingly, "I know what it is." "Suppose I come back when you are sober."

Talking as a practising politician, I personally feel there is room for more members from the Alumni in this important but under-paid job. As it is now, the government members of your fraternity is outnumbered by those in the Opposition bench without including the only Dental Surgeon in the House of Parliament. I hope to see the situation improved when we next go to the polls.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I really shouldn't take too much time especially after such a sumptuous dinner. It has been a very pleasant evening for me and my wife and, once again, I thank you all for having us with you.

In conclusion, I would like to wish the Alumni Association all success in its efforts of assisting the Government to establish a just, healthy and prosperous society in our beloved country. I wish you all Merry X'mas and Happy New Year.