

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE
OPENING OF BUBBLE CAR SYSTEM AND
ORCHID DISPLAY CENTRE AT BUKIT NENAS
TOURIST COMPLEX, KUALA LUMPUR ON 2ND
FEBRUARY, 1972

Y.B. Encik Khir Johari, Y.M. Raja Tan Sri Mohar, Distinguished
PATA Delegates, Saudara-saudara sekalian.

Saya terlebih dahulu mengucapkan berbanyak-banyak terima kasih atas jemputan kepada saya dan isteri saya bagi merasmikan dua daripada projek-projek Kompleks Pelancungan Bukit Nenas ini.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Bubble Car system which we see here is part of the four-stage project to develop this small hill as a tourist attraction.

Bukit Nenas or literally in English "Pineapple Hill" is the main landmark of Kuala Lumpur, and over the years, it has been left in its natural condition while the city develops all round it.

I am told that the primary jungle contains a variety of our better known timber species and up to now most nature lovers prefer the quiet footpaths that take them right to the top. I am sure the conservationists among us would prefer to leave it that way on the argument that it is necessary to maintain the ecological balance which is important for human survival.

However, like everything else, nature has to make way for technology and progress. And a little bit of tampering will even do it some good.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Bubble Car system we see here provides a new dimension to modern living. Penang has always boasted of its hill railway and cable-cars being planned for some of our hill resorts. I hope with this new mode of transportation which combines ingenuity

and speed, many more citizens of Kuala Lumpur would be able to enjoy the facilities of this Tourist Garden Complex when it is finally completed in the not too distant future.

Specifically for the ladies, we have the Orchid Display Centre over there which will provide an unceasing interest. Admittedly, Malaysia is not as rich as Thailand or the Philippines in respect of orchids but from the few indigenous species that are found here, we have created a rich variety of hybrids of various shapes and colours. In fact, orchid growing has become an established industry supplying the requirements of many world capitals.

Many will perhaps recollect the big sensation we created when we displayed some 2,600 sprays of orchids at the Chelsea Exhibition in 1960, and winning a Gold Medal too. Today we are proud of the fact that our orchid species have been used by plant breeders in many countries for the hybridization of orchids especially in Hawaii.

In this connection, I would like to enjoin the two previous speakers in thanking the Selangor Orchid Society for their contribution to the Orchid Display Centre. Further, I would like to urge other orchid lovers among us—and that includes my better half—who, I assure you, looks after her collection very zealously—to donate or display their orchids at this Centre. In this way, we can have many more pavillion in addition to the ones already built.

For her part, she will have the privilege of cutting the ribbon at the Orchid Display Centre.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will certainly agree with me that a Garden Complex such as this has manifold benefits to our visitors and to our own people. This is an added attraction to the growing city and being right in the city centre, I am sure it will draw many visitors especially when the planned aviaries and Vista Tower restaurant are completed.

We are proud of the fact that most visitors have described our capital as a "park city". And talking to a number of delegates, I find they are unanimous in their view that we should try to retain as much of nature as possible rather than over-build the

concrete jungle. We fully recognise that the integration of recreational areas in high density population districts will enhance our peoples' well-being on the one hand, and preserve our national heritage on the other. Together we will be able to create the cultural and environmental identity for the nation.

I am glad that these two projects are completed in time for the PATA Conference so that our distinguished visitors, particularly the travel writers, will return with something extra in their note books. This is sufficient to show that Malaysia as a member of PATA, is making every effort to increase her tourist asset in the hope that we will be able to present a more attractive tourist image to the rest of the world.

On that note, I have great pleasure in declaring open the Bubble Car system and the Orchid Display Centre.