

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT THE  
INSTALLATION DINNER OF THE KUALA LUMPUR  
ROTARY CLUB ON 15TH JULY, 1965

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Fellow Rotarians, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

My wife and I are very glad to have the pleasure of attending this Installation Dinner of the Kuala Lumpur Rotary Club whose activities I always follow with great interest. On behalf of all your guests I would like to express our warm appreciation of your enjoyable hospitality this evening.

May I first take the opportunity of extending my congratulations to the out-going President, Rotarian Clayton, for a very successful year, and to wish my good friend, Rotarian Dato Jamil, your new President, every success in the year that lies ahead of Kuala Lumpur Rotarians in service to the community in many fields.

Knowing Dato Jamil's ability as I do, I am only thankful for Rotary's practice of rotating their Presidents, in effect ringing a gong each year to announce a new leader for a new term. There is thus no danger at all of the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department becoming permanent President of the Rotary Club. — to the Government's loss and to the Club's gain.

Admission to a Rotary Club is a great honour, but membership is almost a full-time occupation, making consistent demands on time and effort. Rotary rules see to that, as I knew to my cost when I was an active member. I am glad that since Merdeka the Kuala Lumpur Club has made me an Honorary Member, otherwise because of my official duties I would probably have run up a record in fines for non-attendance.

I have listened with special interest to the Report on activities made by your retiring President, and I am especially pleased to learn that this Club has raised \$10,000 to establish a Rotary Scholarship Loan Fund to help deserving students. This is indeed a most laudable project well worthy of constant support and I hope that members will dig deep into their pockets not to mention the purses of the Inner-Wheelers as well — to augment the Fund rapidly so that as many students as possible can benefit.

Your new President has indicated that the special project for his year of office will be truly rotary in nature the establishment of a

Mobile Library to go round and round two or three districts of Selangor. This is a brilliant idea which is bound to be well received and very popular in the kampungs and villages. When this scheme gets under way I hope that other Rotary Clubs throughout the country will follow the excellent precedent set by Kuala Lumpur, and that the time will come when as many districts as possible will have a similar service.

The sense of service which imbues Rotarians, locally, nationally and internationally, doing good by giving help where it is most needed, and spreading friendship and goodwill is a most valuable asset in the multi-racial society of Malaysia. Rotary is typical of hundreds of voluntary organisations that carry out responsible and constructive roles, each in their own fields, inspired by the ideal of service to their fellowmen. These are the true Malaysians who not only understand the value of racial harmony but put it into daily practice.

Despite critics and sceptics, who doubt that people of many racial origins can live and work together in tolerance and goodwill, Malaysia, I am proud to say, is a very happy example of friendship and understanding. Those who prefer to look for discord when none exists, those who try to create ferment and tension which no one wants, those who utter dark forecasts of troubles looming, which have no basis, or those who delude the people with slogans and suspicions — these people do not understand or appreciate the real spirit of Malaysia. If they really have the interests of the whole nation at heart, they would direct their energies and talents not to division but to unity, not to disruption but to harmony. Then they would be giving true service to Malaysia and working in accord with the hopes and wishes of the people.

As long as we have men and women, boys and girls, who are willing to give service to their country in voluntary organisations such as Rotary, Malaysia is in good hands. We have every reason to be proud of our past achievements, and knowing this there can be no doubt that through cooperation and harmony our future will be marked with steady and solid progress.

On behalf of all your guests, and on my own behalf, I wish to express our thanks for the pleasure of attending this Installation Dinner, and in doing so to wish the Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur an eventful year. Professor Sandosham, offered to us, your guests, a witty and graceful toast. I would now like to ask all guests to rise and drink with me a toast to our generous hosts, "The Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur".