

SPEECH BY THE HON'BLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT THE
ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER OF ROTARY CLUB,
KUALA LUMPUR ON 27TH JUNE 1967

**Duli-duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan dan Tengku Ampuan Selangor,
Mr. Past President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
and Fellow Rotarians:**

I am indeed happy to be with you here tonight at this your Annual Installation Dinner and to have this privilege of replying on behalf of your so many distinguished guests. As your past President said, I was many years ago a Rotarian of this Kuala Lumpur Club and that you kindly promoted me to be an Honorary Rotarian. Since then, you had on several occasions up-graded me to be your 'honoured' guest.

The last time I was at your Annual Dinner v/as in 1962 when the past President was then Rotarian Vic Hutson, whom I described as a lonely bachelor, and the President-Elect was my good friend, Tan Sri Abdul Jamil, whom I described as a young old man and had enjoyed many years of married life. There was, therefore, a contrast between the past President and the President-Elect at that time. Although I did not have the courage of making comparisons between the merits of married and bachelorhood, and I do not wish to do so tonight for fear that I would suffer when I get home later this evening. However, Ladies and Gentlmen, your past President is a member of the medical profession and so is your new President. I am wondering why this Rotary Club should deem it necessary to have elected two doctors successively to make charge of its affairs. I see from your record and from what your past President has said, this Club had continued to make great progress and is certainly far from being sick. Perhaps you agree with the definition that 'a doctor is one who suffers from good health'.

Mr. President, you have so many distinguished guests here tonight, including ladies too, and I am not sure whether I am qualified to speak on their behalf. Certainly as a Federal Minister, I am under constitutional difficulties to speak on behalf of Their Royal Highnesses the Sultan and Tengku Ampuan. Although as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, National & Rural Development, and Home Affairs, I have a lot to answer for, but it is not very often I have to answer to my wife. What is more tonight? I have to speak on behalf of all the ladies present. However, Mr. President, whatever

difficulties I may have in the discharge of my duty, I can assure you that all your guests tonight are most grateful to you and to the members of your Club for inviting us to this delightful dinner and this enjoyable evening.

I am very pleased to see that Rotary Clubs in Malaysia are really thriving and expanding and are rendering great services to our community and to our country. I am also pleased to see that your Club here have undertaken a number of projects in the service of the community in the Federal Capital and that you intend to enlarge the scope of your activities.

When I last spoke to you in 1962, I did make point that the spirit of Rotary, the aims and ideals in which it strives for, can make a tremendous contribution to our national development. I did say also that if the aims of Rotary could permeate through each and every aspect of the private sector of our national economy, they would do much towards producing the right spirit, the right attitude "of mind and the right contribution to our task of national development and nation building. We need the aims and ideals of Rotary in every single industry, business house and indeed in every home in our country. When I said this, we had just launched our National and Rural Development Plan. Although that Plan was launched into orbit, it had not yet gone through the sound-barrier nor had it gathered enough momentum for speed. However, today we know that the Government's Development Plan has been a success and has produced results beyond the expectation of most of us. At that time, there were critics and doubters who thought that this Plan would, like Development Plans in some other countries, merely go into orbit and would not come to earth again and achieve its aims. But since that time, indeed the last 10 years since we achieved Independence, we have seen our country, Malaya, now Malaysia, moving forward steadily and progressively towards the attainment of the aims we set ourselves on ourselves on our first Merdeka Day. Merdeka to all of us has meant the beginning of bigger and better things, the foundation of further stability and security within our shores, the steady progress for a better way of life in both the urban and rural areas, the release of energy, enthusiasm and concentrated efforts on the task of nation building in which we have all joined in with unselfish and untiring efforts. All these things have amazed and brough praises from every free nation of the world today. We did not ask for praises. We only prayed for progress, but nevertheless, the praises that had been poured upon us are proof that we are steadily achieving, particularly in our Development Programme, the aim we set ourselves when we achieved Independence. A journey through our towns and through our villages is abundant with tangible results and proof of the progress we have

been achieving from day to day. We have been regarded as a model to other nations not only in the field of development, but for tolerance and for inter-racial harmony. We have proved to the world that people of different racial origin and of different beliefs, could live together in peace and harmony and we have proved, and in fact have progressed, that inter-mixture and co-operation of races gives us our strength and that therefore is an asset and not a liability. During these 10 years of independence, we have shown a spirit of national pride, determination and perseverance to move forward as a happy and progressive nation.

Nevertheless, what I said in 1962 to you is equally true today. The desirability of having the spirit, the aims and ideals of Rotary, permeating through the life of our community is far more urgent today than it has ever been before. During the last 10 years, as I said, we have achieved great progress; we have expanded our social services, education, health and other services, to a point where the Government can no longer continue to maintain these services, let alone increase them without increase of productivity. That is why I was impressed with what your new President had said that he had no plan for your Club. He felt that the time has come for stock-taking and self examination and consolidation. This is the same for our country. Soon we still be celebrating the tenth year of our Independence. Clearly the time has come for us to take stock of our position and to measure the progress we have so far achieved. By doing so, you will be able to plan for the future and meet the challenges that the next 10 years in the life of our nation may bring.

Clearly, the problem we have to meet for the next few years is the desirability of increasing productivity - both of our resources and manpower. I have always said that compared with some other countries, our country Malaysia is rich both in natural resources and in manpower. We have, therefore, to make use of these to the full in order to generate enough energy, wealth and skill to enable us to continue the momentum of challenge before us during the next 10 years as it was the challenge on the day we achieved Merdeka 10 years ago.

Before Independence 10 years ago, critics and doubters said we were not yet ready to govern ourselves and that independence probably would mean the beginning of the end of prosperity and stability in Malaya. But Ladies and Gentlemen, men are born to succeed, not to fail. It is seldom that we find how great our energy and resources until we are thrown upon them. Today, on the Tenth Anniversary of our Independence, we are again faced with the challenge; but I am confident that all of us, the Government and the people, are prepared to do our duty, to follow the spirit of Rotary - "Service above Self, and the leaders of our people, leaders in the

professions, captains of our commerce and industry, can get together with one theme and one heart, to harness the best brains and the best thinkers we have in our country. Clearly all these efforts will crystallize into a definite boosting charge for our economy and our economic development and will push our nation, whatever the problems may be in front of us, further on the road to progress and prosperity.

If, as I said, the principles of Rotary could be applied in this way towards harnessing the energy and the resources of our country into greater efforts and greater efficiency, then I feel that the Rotary movement will be rendering the greatest service to our nation.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, having enjoyed hospitality and having had such an excellent dinner, I would not wish to spoil the joy of the evening by standing too long before you. I was merely asked to reply on behalf of the guests, and once again, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, we your guest, thank you very much indeed for this delightful and enjoyable evening. I will now ask my fellow guest to be up standing and I would like to give Your Royal Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen, a toast to the Kuala Lumpur Rotary Club.