

**ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AT THE LIONS INTERNATIONAL DINNER
HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR ON 10TH JUNE, 1960**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You can imagine the feeling of trepidation I had when I received an invitation to dine with the Club of Lions! The idea suddenly struck me that lions of today have become so sophisticated that they no longer hunt for their food. Instead they invite their dinner to come into their den. As I was coming up a little while ago, I was visualising hungry lions awaiting the arrival of their dinner but I was resolved to show them how lion-hearted I was though I am no lion-hunter myself!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now that I am among you here I feel greatly relieved to learn from your President that you are members of the Lions Club—an international fraternity dedicated to community service.

I understand that membership of the International Association of Lions Clubs exceed 590,000, and that some 14,000 clubs operate in 92 countries. Statistics by themselves are often meaningless to the lay public unless they are translated into human terms. Your Code of Ethics exhorts you to always bear in mind your obligation as a citizen of your nation, your state and your community, and to give to them your answering loyalty in words, act and in deed.

It used to be said one time that we in Malaya set great store on imported goods, imported culture, and imported ideas, and that they regarded goods and ideas originating from the home soil as inferior to that of foreign origin. I must admit that many good ideas have spread to our country from foreign lands and that these ideas have been adapted to our needs and our way of life. But there are also ideas brought here from abroad that have done harm to our people.

Your Lions Club originated from abroad and some of its aims should be conditioned to suit Malayan social needs. The spirit of service to the community in which you excel is a spirit needed in our country today. But service to the community must be geared to the special needs of our people and their environment, for I am sure you agree with me that to use methods not applicable here or not suited to our condition here is a waste of time and effort.

I would like to see in this country more voluntary service associations run by professional business people like yourself, indeed the spirit of voluntary service should be fostered among our people and such a spirit can spread when more citizens give practical evidence of their loyalty to our country, to quote your Code of Ethics, in word, act and deed. In our country today the accent should be on deed. The sense of urgency is in the air, and each person in his own sphere must play his part to bring about progress and prosperity to our nation. Today one does not think of ones-self alone but of the people in every nook and corner of our beloved land. The Government intend to do all it can to help our less fortunate brethren in the rural areas so that they will be able to enjoy some of the amenities of Malayan life which we in the town are enjoying. We should create an atmosphere of initiative and purposeful endeavour in our people so that progress of our nation can be accelerated for several generations to come.

I am grateful to your President for the kind words that he has just said about the **Tunku**¹, our Prime Minister. We are all proud of the way in which he, the Prime Minister of a small nation, is taking the lead in international affairs. We in the Alliance Party have always stood for justice and fair play. We not only wanted to achieve independence for our country with the self-respect of our people but we wanted to establish a strong, stable and honest Government dedicated to the principles of Parliamentary Democracy. As you all are aware the guiding principle of this Government is peace, justice and prosperity. We want peace so that our people can get on with their ideals in life, happily and with a sense of security. We want justice among our people of all races and we would like to see others to enjoy the same national justice from their Government. It is only with peace and justice

¹ Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman **Putra Al-Haj**.

can we bring to our people that social stability and economic progress which they have no longer desired, and it is only by this guiding principle can we ensure that our ideals of Parliamentary Democracy are firmly enshrined in our country. In carrying out our policy we may have to adopt measures which are not strictly compatible with our ideals of freedom and Parliamentary Democracy. But we do that as a temporary expediency in order to defend our freedom and our democracy. Democracy as we know it and believe it, can only work if everyone of our people sincerely believe in it, but there are some people in this country who only pay lip-service to democracy and who use democracy merely to destroy that democracy. Therefore, we have to defend this ideal of ours and we owe a duty to the future generations to do so. But whatever we do, I can assure you as far as the Alliance Government is concerned, we pledge to uphold Parliamentary Democracy in this country, and we pledge to see that ideals is firmly established in this beautiful land of ours. However, it is the way of the world, that if we cherish a thing, we must be prepared to protect and defend it. If we value freedom and democracy we must be able to defend it by whatever measure is required from us.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I look to people like yourselves who have progressive thought and ideas to set the tempo of our progress and to see that the ideals on which we stand is firmly and securely established. It is people like yourselves who can set examples to others in carrying out voluntary service in our society and community service for our people. It therefore, gives me great pleasure to ask you to rise and drink with me a toast to Lions International.