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SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AT THE DINNER OF THE
MALAYAN ASSOCIATION OF
CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF SECRETARIES
ON 18TH JUNE, 1966.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the members of the Malayan Association of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries for inviting my wife and myself to your Annual Dinner tonight and for giving us this opportunity of meeting you and members of your Association.

When I received your invitation, I wondered to myself as to why you decided to ask me to be your guest of honour at this Dinner. Perhaps, you must have thought that your profession and mine have many things in common. Certainly the profession of a 'Chartered Secretary' and that of a 'Minister' share the same frustrations and disappointments because, we both have to manage the affairs of organisation of departments. Indeed, other peoples' affairs and other people business. Of course in your frustrations and disappointments you do get paid, but not so in any case as a Minister. However, Ladies and Gentlemen, in both the professions of a Chartered Secretary and that of a Minister, if we do our work in the right spirit and with a sincere objective of serving our fellow men and women, we receive the greatest satisfaction.

Mr. Chairman, in your speech a short while ago, you said that your Association, in spite of the small membership, had played and will continue to play an important role in the service of our country and of our people. I would like to congratulate you and members of your Association for the way in which you have played your part in the progress and development of our Nation. I have every confidence that you will continue the good work that you are doing in helping our Government and our people in our national task of achieving greater progress, happiness and prosperity.

As I have said on many occasions, the successful implementation of our Development Plans will depend not only on the efforts of the Government alone, but on the efforts of every citizen of this country - of the public and private sectors of the economy. Members of the various organisations, such as yours, have a great part to play in the development of our economy and the rising of the standard of living of our people, not only in the present Five Year Period of our Development Plan, but also in the many many years to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you know, at this very moment Parliament is debating the Royal Address and the debate on the Royal Address can be said to be an inquest of the Nation and of the country. In the last few days, sitting in Parliament, I felt myself like a goal-keeper in a football match. Continuous attempts were made to shoot at the goal, not only from the opposite side, i.e., from the Opposition Party, but sometimes, either intentionally or inadvertently, the kicks also came from members of my own team. So as a "goal-keeper", I had to be continually on the alert, and I wished that I have an expert at keeping goal as some of the goal-keepers I have seen at international football matches.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we believe in the principle of parliamentary democracy; and our people, whether they be Members of the Opposition Parties or not, have the right to criticize the Government from time to time. However, despite these criticism, I can say with modesty that during the nine years since we achieved independence, our country, Malaya, and now Malaysia, has grown considerably, both in strength and in purpose. In 1957, when we first achieved independence, we had to face an Emergency brought about by militant communism from within the country. We were able to bring an end to this fight successfully in July, 1960. Then, after a few years of peace, when we established Malaysia in September, 1963, we were faced with another Emergency. This time from outside, the Indonesian confrontation. During both these emergencies, our people of all races stood solidly behind the Government with the result that we were able to ride through the two emergencies victoriously, and we emerged through these ordeals and convulsions more determined than ever, to uphold the principles on which we stand; the principles which our government strongly believes in; the principles of democracy, of freedom, justice and of fair-play for all.

It is because we strongly uphold this principle that as a small Nation we had been looked upon as an example to other Nations. Indeed, today our country is being held in high esteem and admiration in many parts of the world for the way in which our people of various races are able to live in peace and harmony - our Government is to carry out its policies with dignity, with fairness and justice; and, despite difficulties and confrontation, our Government has been able to give our people in all walks of life a share of the happiness that they have longed for.

I need hardly say that the way in which we implemented our Development Plan during the last five years has received the praise and admiration of people from nearly every country of the world who have visited our shores. We have developed techniques of implementing our development which have proved a success and which have produced results even beyond our own expectation. Therefore, today in our country, you can see progress everywhere; in the towns, in the new villages and in the kampuhgs. Indeed, our people of all races are enjoying a standard of living which is better and higher than they have ever enjoyed. Of course, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am the first to admit that there is still much to be done before the needs and the aspiration of our people can be satisfied. But our Government is determined to do all this, our Government is determined to give our people of all races a rightful place in our country; to give them a standard of living at least equivalent to that enjoyed by more developed countries.

As I speak to you tonight, I am sure you all share the joy and the feeling of thankfulness that we in the Government feel that Indonesian confrontation has now come to an end. We are all very happy that the new Government in Indonesia has shown sincerity to live in peace with us, to work together for the benefit of our respective peoples. We, in Malaysia, as you know, have always wanted to live in peace, particularly with our neighbours. It has been the cardinal principle of our foreign policy even since we achieved independence that we should live in peace, that we should endeavour to be a friend of all friendly countries. Also, we should endeavour to work together closely in economic, social and cultural fields with all our neighbours. In 1962, as you know, our Prime Minister¹ initiated the establishment of ASA, an Association of Southeast Asian States. Despite many set-backs, ASA is now being

reactivated, and it is our determination to make this organisation work and succeed, and it is also our hope that other countries in this region will join together with us, in close cooperation and in friendship, for the benefit of our respective countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is certainly heartening to be able to look forward to an era of peace and cooperation in this region of Southeast Asia. Let us pray that the Accord we reached in Bangkok with Indonesia would bring permanent peace, not only between our two countries, but for the whole of Southeast Asia. With a period of peace, we can now devote our time and energy, and resources, to economic development to carry our people further on the road of progress and happiness. As I have said, in the field of economic development, there is still much to be done. The Government needs the cooperation of each and everyone of our citizens in order to achieve our ultimate goal. The progress of each Nation is a sum total of the efforts of everyone of its citizens. Therefore, if our people, particularly the 'have-nots', desire to have a better and a higher standard of living, it is essential that they should put in more work and more efforts in their daily life. The Government alone cannot bring the desired progress and happiness. Progress and happiness can only be achieved through the sweat and toil of everyone of our people.

I, therefore, hope, Ladies and Gentlemen, the members of your profession, not only to assist the Government in the implementation of our Development Plan, but also to assist in giving your leadership to our people in the kampungs, in the villages and in the towns, so that they can move forward together in harmony and goodwill and unity, towards greater happiness and greater progress.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, once again I thank you very much for your kind invitation to this dinner and for this most enjoyable evening. I wish your Association and all its members continuous success in the years to come.

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