

MAJLIS MAKAN MALAM PERSIDANGAN ROTARY
HOTEL FEDERAL, KUALA LUMPUR

20 NOVEMBER 1982

Yang Berhormat Mulia Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Menteri
Kewangan;
Yang Berbahagia Dato Dr. Keshmahinder Singh, 'District
Governor' Kelab Rotary;
Dif-dif Kehormat;

Tuan-Tuan dan Puan-Puan yang dihormati sekalian.

Terlebih dahulu saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada penganjur Majlis ini di atas jemputan kepada saya dan isteri saya, dan di atas penghargaan yang diberikan kepada saya untuk berucap pada Majlis malam ini. Kepada sekalian ahli Kelab Rotary, yang datang dari jauh dan dekat, saya harap Majlis ini dan perjumpaan yang diadakan bukan sahaja dapat mengeratkan perhubungan di kalangan ahli sekalian tetapi juga dapat membuahkkan ide-ide baru ke arah memenuhi hasrat mencapai objektif-objektif Kelab.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. As Rotarians who share common aspirations to serve the community, yet differing in career backgrounds, I am sure that there is no subject which is of no interest to you. organisation as a specific sociological term but as any voluntary organisation whose objective is social and public welfare and good.

3. There are many social organisations in today's societies. It is both a necessity as well as a response to the complexity and pressures of modern life. The objectives of social organisations differ; some organisations cater to the specific needs of its members, while others, in addition, address the needs of the community or society at large. While the first category is a common phenomenon and ubiquitous in nature, the second is more an urban phenomenon. This intrinsic difference is not a necessary reflection that urbanites are more socially conscious than the rural folks but rather the need for organisations is more felt in the urban areas, where lack of time and opportunity for interactions create social cleavages and separations. Nor is this a reflection that the rural areas

are lacking in problems and therefore deserve less attention.

4. The world is in more trouble than ever. Our so called civilisation is gripped by greed, selfishness and arrogance. Sometimes I just wonder what is becoming of man and meet and confer and have dialogues. Yet we see more of man. Humanity would forever be in gratitude if they can put this simple axiom into practice and save the world from more catastrophes. Not that social organisations can do to awaken the conscience and replaced it with arrogance. Human society and the world is the poorer by it, unless and until social

6. Rotarians are an enlightened group. With so much problems that our world is facing, Rotarians in 157 countries have a very important role to play. To bridge an international understanding that can inculcate and foster a truly international responsibility for peace and prosperity world-wide is a very difficult task yet an urgent one. Your international nature is a positive attribute and I am confident you will channel your efforts to this end.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. In Malaysia, we encourage public participation in rendering services or implementing projects for the benefit of the public. This can be done in two ways. Firstly, the members of the public, through their associations or organisations, can plan and implement projects for the benefit of the public, as is being done by Rotarians in this country. Examples of other organisations that are doing the same are the Lions, Apex and Jaycees.

8. The second method is where the people in an area or locality join in with the government to plan and implement projects for their benefit. The contribution may be physical or in the form of funds raised or contributed. There are times when projects are implemented in this country on a ringgit to ringgit basis i.e. the government contributes a dollar for every dollar raised for the project by the people in the locality.

9. The government does not really encourage this because it may be caught up in expenditures not budgeted for. This does not mean a lack of appreciation on the part of Government. It is simply because certain budgetary procedures are necessary if public funds are to be properly administered.

10. While we appreciate the role that gifts and donations play in helping to ameliorate the living conditions of the needy in our society, we have to be careful to avoid nurturing an attitude of over dependence on outside help. Service clubs should therefore not choose the easy way out as represented by fund-raising and fund distribution. They should find ways and means of stimulating self-help. It is far better to participate in a "gotong royong" in which club members and the beneficiaries take part than to merely make a gift of a ready-made facility. A "gotong-royong" project not only makes the result of the effort available to the recipients but help to inculcate the spirit of service which is the raison d'etre of the service clubs. No one can deny that a community which values and encourages voluntary service by its members will be a much better society.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. I do hope the two-day district conference will consolidate not only ideas from Rotarians from Malaysia but also from our guests from Singapore and Brunei.

13. My wife and I would like once again to express our gratitude to the organisers of this gathering for inviting us to this dinner and the opportunity given to me to share some of my thoughts with you.

Thank you.