

SPEECH BY: DATO' SERI DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD
(PRIME MINISTER)

EVENT: THE OFFICIAL DINNER IN HONOUR OF HIS EXCELLENCY SIR KINGSFORD
DIBELA THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

VENUE: SRI PERDANA, KUALA LUMPUR

DATE: 08 OCT 1987

TIME:

Your Excellency Sir Kingsford Dibela;
Lady Dibela;
Distinguished guests;
Ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the government and people of Malaysia it gives me great pleasure to welcome Your Excellency and Lady Dibela to Malaysia. My wife and I are indeed honoured and privileged to have Your Excellencies with us this evening. We hope that Your Excellency's stay in Malaysia would be a memorable one.

2. I wish also to express on behalf of Their Majesties the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong their cordial greetings and welcome to Your Excellency and Lady Dibela and to express His Majesty's deep regret for his inability to receive Your Excellency as His Majesty is presently overseas. His Majesty expresses His confidence that Your Excellency's visit to Malaysia will be successful.

3. Your Excellency's visit to Kuala Lumpur is a historic occasion as this is the first visit by a Governor General of Papua New Guinea to Malaysia. We in Malaysia place great importance to Your Excellency's visit. I hope that this visit will not only further strengthen our ties but will also enable Your Excellency and Lady Dibela to catch a varied glimpse of Malaysia, see a little of our country and meet with some of our people.

4. Relations between Papua New Guinea and Malaysia have always been close and cordial. It is the intention of the Malaysian Government to maintain, nurture and invigorate further the relationship between us. Your Excellency's visit to Malaysia contributes at the highest level towards consolidating that relationship, symbolising a friendship that will withstand changes and time.

5. We in Malaysia follow with keen interest the vigorous efforts by Your Excellency's government to improve the economic and social wellbeing of the people of Papua New Guinea. We have pursued similar objectives and are only too

happy to share our knowledge and experiences. I am confident that there is indeed great potential for wider cooperation in trade, economic and technical areas for the mutual benefits of our two countries. It only remains for us, particularly our private sector, to identify the areas and jointly profit from them.

Your Excellency,

6. Malaysia is fully committed to the concept of cooperation among developing countries, or South-South Cooperation, not only in trade but also in other aspects of economic and technical cooperations. We consider the recent establishment of the Independent Commission of the South, headed by former President of Tanzania, His Excellency Dr. Julius Nyerere, as a significant step towards greater cooperation among developing countries.

7. Malaysia has initiated its own assistance programme - the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) in which we share our experiences and expertise with other developing countries including Papua New Guinea. It is hoped that this modest assistance programme would be of benefit in the development of Papua New Guinea. Furthermore the contacts made and the friendship established between the peoples of Papua New Guinea and Malaysia will no doubt contribute towards cementing the existing friendship and goodwill between us.

8. Like most other developing countries, Malaysia continues to be affected by the global economic predicament including unfavourable terms of trade, growing protectionism and declining prices of primary commodities. All these cannot be redressed in isolation nor can it wait for global consensus on the creation of a new international economic order. What is also needed is effective and sustained cooperations among developing countries. All developing countries have to tackle these problems ourselves so as to ensure that our products receive fair and stable prices and that we could reap the benefits which can contribute to the development of our countries.

Your Excellency,

9. Once again, I would like to warmly welcome Your Excellency and Lady Dibela to Malaysia and hope that both of you have a pleasant and memorable stay in Malaysia.

10. May I now invite you all, distinguished guests, to join me in a toast to the good health of the Governor General of Papua New Guinea; to the continued progress and well being of the government and people of Papua New Guinea and to the close and cordial relations between Malaysia and Papua New Guinea.

Thank you.

