

Penyampai : TAN SRI DATO SERI AHMAD SARJI BIN ABDUL HAMID
Tajuk : MAJLIS UCAPAN PERDANA YANG KETIGA
Lokasi :
Tarikh : 28-07-1993

On behalf of the Harvard Club of Malaysia, I have the honour to welcome Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, and every one of you to this evening's function. We are particularly honoured that Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad has most kindly agreed to address us. As many of you are aware, this Address is the third in the annual series of Prime Ministerial Addresss organised by the Harvard Club of Malaysia.

In the first Prime Ministerial Address to us in 1990, YAB Dato Seri shared with us his seminal thoughts on the Post New Economic Policy era which heralded the National Development Policy. In January 1992 the Prime Minister gave us the second Prime Ministerial Address entitled "A United Malaysian Nation - Satu Bangsa Malaysia Towards the Year 2020". This is the first of the nine challenges of Vision 2020. The topic of YAB Dato' Seri's Address for this evening focuses on yet another key issue for our nation.

The subject "Towards a Fully Moral and Ethical Society in Malaysia" is both topical and relevant. There is growing urbanisation and increased availability of economic opportunities. We perceive changes in the value system of our people. Some countries boast of their highly developed status but are silent on the ethical and moral status of their societies. Hence, we are honoured that the Prime Minister has agreed to address us on this fourth challenge under our Vision 2020.

This year has been a very active year for the Harvard Club of Malaysia. We organized the following activities: (i) together with the Harvard Business School and PNB, the Club conducted jointly the Business Ethics Seminar. YAB Dato Seri was kind enough to officiate this two-day seminar. Prof. Michael Beer assisted by Dr. Badaracco of the Harvard Business School conducted the seminar; (ii) the Club sponsored jointly with the Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID) and the Institute of Bankers Malaysia, the Second Project Appraisal and Risk Analysis Management Programme. This successful 3-week course was attended by participants including those from other ASEAN countries. YAB Perdana Menteri was kind enough to officiate at the launching of this programme; (iii) to continue our efforts to keep tabs on the global scene we organized a dialogue session with John Naisbitt, the popular author of Megatrends and Megatrends 2000. This was held jointly with the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) and the Malaysian Strategic Consultancy Services; (iv) the Club, jointly with the Persatuan Ekonomi Malaysia, held a series of three informal discussion group meetings on important economic issues of public interest. The first in this series was with Dr.

Donald Snodgrass of the Harvard Institute for International Development. He led an exceptionally stimulating discussion on "Managing Economic Growth amidst Ethnic Diversity"; this was followed by Dr. Jeffrey Vincent also of the Harvard Institute for International Development on the subject of "Economics of Natural Resources and the Environment in Malaysia"; and in quick succession 5 days later, on a public holiday, by a conversation with the nobel laureate Prof. Merton Miller of the University of Chicago; and (v) the Club organized a Royal Command Performance by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. Their Majesties the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong and His Royal Highness the Regent of Perak were the Royal guests of honour.

The Harvard Club of Malaysia will continue to contribute towards the performing arts. Previously, we had the world famous Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra perform here; the Club plans to invite the orchestra again next year. The great violinist Dennis Lee had also performed twice here.

The Harvard Club of Malaysia will soon honour the legendary P. Ramlee. A book containing the lyrics and musical notes of his songs from the Malay films during the period 1948-1960 is now under preparation, and will be launched soon. This will be accompanied by a special music concert entitled : "A Classical Tribute to P Ramlee" which will be held towards the later part of this year and will be conducted by a leading symphony orchestra.

I am pleased to announce that our Deputy President, Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Lin See Yan, has just been elected to the prestigious Council of the Harvard Graduate Society for a 3-year term. The Council, comprising 35 members, including the President of the University, is the governing board of the alumni association of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, representing about 300,000 graduates over 370 years of history! Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Lin is the first Asian to sit on this Council, all the others in the present Council being distinguished Americans. The main function of this Council is to represent and advance the interests of students and alumni of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and also advises the President of Harvard University and the Deans on a wide range of academic areas, including the academic degrees, publications, curriculum and the recruitment of students.

Finally I have the honour to announce that our Club has published a book incorporating the major speeches made by distinguished speakers on the invitation of the Club. This book is entitled : "Best of Harvard Club of Malaysia Speeches". I conclude by thanking YAB Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad once again and everyone of you for your continued and generous support for the activities of our Club. May I request the Deputy President to accompany the Prime Minister up to this stage, first to launch our book, and then to deliver the Third Prime Ministerial Address.