

Penyampai : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI
Tajuk : THE KUALA LUMPUR ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON
Lokasi : THE HARLEQUIN, MERLIN HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR
Tarikh : 10-06-1987

President Hew; Members of the Kuala Lumpur Rotary Club; Ladies and Gentlemen.

When I received the invitation to attend this luncheon, I was very pleasantly surprised. I asked myself: "Are they inviting me to become a member?" But on reading the letter, I found that this was not so. Although some of our "sisters" in the United States are now addressed as "Fellow Rotarians", perhaps it will take some time before Rotarians here accord Malaysian women the same rights. It is worthy of note that the United States Supreme Court recently granted a petition by a woman's organisation to allow women to become Rotarians. As we are aware Rotarians all over the world are men. So let us hope that the day will come in Malaysia when the Rotary Club opens its doors to women and the term "Rotarian" embraces both men and women.

2. I have had the honour of addressing many service organisations before, but I am pleased to say that I find Rotary gatherings most inspiring because in this troubled world it is really encouraging to find groups of professionals -- such as this distinguished gathering today -- who meet specifically to help the less fortunate in society. I am not saying this because I am obliged to in view of the presence here of someone close to me. My father was a Rotarian and my husband was also a Rotarian until he found politics more challenging. I am saying this because of the very noble objectives of the Rotary Club and the tenets by which it is governed. I am confident that if your Four-Way Test is applied by all concerned, the world could be a far happier place today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. I am very pleased to be here today to distribute the fruits of your labour. Last year, you worked very hard in staging performances of the Long Island Youth Orchestra from the United States of America, which were successfully held in Kuala Lumpur, Malacca and Penang. I was proud to be the patron of this worthy event which was under the chairmanship of Past President Jaffar Ali. As patron of the concert, I would like to thank all those who had worked very hard to make the concerts successful.

4. The concert in Kuala Lumpur was held at the Shangri-La Hotel and was attended by more than a thousand people except me. It was preceded by a charity dinner, very kindly hosted by our national carrier, the Malaysian Airline System (MAS). Our special thanks to MAS for its benevolence.

5. Your Club, through the Long Island Youth Orchestra concert raised \$40,000. Part of this money will go to five deserving charities, namely: a. To the University of Malaya for the purchase of a talking-Braille type-writing machine to aid visually-handicapped undergraduate students.

b. To the Rotary Village Corps of Sungei Buloh Leper Settlement to enable ex-Hansen (Kusta) patients to start a Durian (King of Fruits) Orchard.

c. To the Society of Severely Mentally-Retarded Children, Selangor/Federal Territory to improve the facilities and services to severely brain- injured children.

d. To the Rotary Home-nursing Scheme to enable patients to be nursed at home, thus relieving pressure of hospital beds at overcrowded hospitals.

e. To the National Society of the Deaf a donation of a Foyer Hearing Aid Analyser machine to analyse and ensure that auditory-handicapped children are fitted with correct hearing aids.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. Your charitable efforts will most certainly brighten the lives of these unfortunate people, especially at

this time when money seems so hard to come by. You have given them hope and encouragement to lead normal lives. I hope you will continue to help the handicapped and the unfortunate in our society.

7. Before I hand over these donations I would like to suggest to recipient Organisations to present to their donors a brief report of what their donations have achieved for them. I feel this is an obligation on their part that will ensure a constant flow of ready assistance from generous donors in the future.

8. We in Malaysia are blessed with kind and warm-hearted people. I am therefore very happy to be among warm-hearted Rotarians today and I wish to congratulate them for their successful efforts. I must also place on record my sincere appreciation to the Kuala Lumpur Rotary Club for its message of goodwill, understanding and humanitarian beliefs which it is successfully spreading in Malaysia.

9. It gives me great pleasure to perform this pleasant duty of handing over the donations to the organisations concerned.

Thank you.