

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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SPEECH BY THE ACTING CHIEF MINISTER, INCHE ABDUL  
HAMID BIN HAJI JUMAT, AT A TEA PARTY AT RAFFLES  
HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH JUNE, 1957, AT 5.30 P.M.  
ORGANISED BY THE TAMILS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL  
IN HONOUR OF MR. N. RENGASAMY PILLAY OF PENANG.

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There is a Tamil concept which states that the greatest act of charity is to the cause of education. From the Tamil classics we learn that only the lettered are said to possess eyes, but the eyes of the unlettered are not eyes but sores.

True to this concept the Tamils' Representative Council of Singapore has today chosen to honour one who has helped in the cause of education to open the eyes of the community.

We have here as our guest of honour Mr. Rengasamy Pillay. Mr. Pillay is a philanthropist without bias. He has extended charity not only to his community, but to other communities as well.

Philanthropy without bias is, to my mind, true and noble philanthropy. Last year Mr. Pillay donated more than \$120,000/- in lands and funds to educational institutions. It is not unreasonable for us to ask why he should do this. I would like to answer for Mr. Pillay. It is a basic trait of the Tamils to regard every country in which they reside as their true home and every man as their Kinsman. India has been historically and culturally associated with Malaya over a number of centuries. This association has left its mark on the people and the country.

Indian culture, more particularly Tamil culture, has greatly influenced this region of Asia. Down the centuries there has been a process of evolution and assimilation. We have been enriched by what came to us from the Indians who settled here. There is no doubt that the Indians of Malaya can trace their association with Malaya far back into history. They are no strangers to this country, and for this reason the Tamils have naturally developed a fraternal feeling for the people of Malaya, and a strong loyalty for Malaya.

It is in keeping with these sentiments that we discover a man like Mr. Rengasamy Pillay, Malayan enough and loyal enough to want to extend to the people here a helping hand. I commend the Tamils' Representative Council for making this special arrangement to honour a true Malayan. This Council, founded some six years ago, has rendered signal service not only to their community, but to all deserving of help. The founder of this Council, Mr. G. Sarangapany, is one who I am proud and happy to number among my friends. He has been the guiding spirit and the drive which has made the Tamils' Representative Council a beacon in the Malayan landscape. He has taken the initiative to implement social improvement and educational advancement and, when this is done from within the community, the State cannot but help those who have made an attempt to help themselves.

The Labour Front Coalition Government, of which I am pleased to be associated, is conscious of its responsibility to the people and is doing all within its power to assist the people. On this note of assurance I now desire on your behalf, Ladies and Gentlemen, to thank Mr. Rengasamy Pillay for his generosity and to congratulate the Tamils' Representative Council for the good they have done.

JUNE 12, 1957.

(Time issued - 1600 hours.)