

+++++
 + EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY +
 + PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY +
 +++++

TEXT OF SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE YANG
 DI-PERTUAN NEGARA, TUN YUSOF BIN ISHAK, AT
 THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE OLD RAFFLESIANS'
 ASSOCIATION ON SATURDAY, JUNE 13, AT 8 P.M.

Once again it is my pleasant task to speak to members of the Old Rafflesians' Association and their guests.

In speaking to you tonight I am in a manner speaking for all of you, since my relationship with Raffles Institution is, as you well know, a close and formative one. In my address three years ago to the staff and students of one of the schools from which members of the Old Rafflesians Association are drawn, I found a happy occasion to express my regard for the education which I had received at that particular school, both formal and in the wider social sense.

I am, in common with most people, familiar with the high levels of attainment in the academic and extra-mural fields in both Raffles Institution and Raffles Girls' School. While the regularity and normalcy of such brilliant successes is genuine reason for pride and a sense of honest achievement, all Rafflesians past and present, should look upon the eminence of their schools not as a means to consciously mark themselves off as a special privileged segment of our larger society, but to draw inspiration from a great and noble tradition, always with the constant personal reminder to each and every one of ourselves that a noble tradition should incorporate in its members a sense of service to the community, that desire to serve being better able to be effected by reason of the higher level of education and attainment on the part of its members.

The Old Rafflesians' Association has been most active recently, and has organised, amongst other projects, the revival of a series of sporting activities between past and present pupils of Raffles Institution and of Raffles Girls' School. These sports, besides the indubitable value they possess, are invaluable in promoting better understanding and in building up a close bond between the students and teachers, and members of the Old Rafflesians' Association. Thus while a netball match at Anderson Road will be the proper occasion for the ladies of the Old Rafflesians' Association to get to know and understand the younger ladies of Raffles Girls' School, the old boys will meet the young men of Raffles Institution in the perhaps slightly grimmer competition of rifle shooting - at targets. Besides these sporting activities the Old Rafflesians' Association has most commendably continued to take a keen interest in the progress of their schools in providing for the award of a number of prizes and medals for ability and character, to encourage and recognise the good in men and women, especially when such good character is manifested at an early age.

And it is, I think, in this matter of providing the required help and support to the young adults of both the Raffles schools that Old Rafflesians can play a valuable role. Their rich and varied experience in the professions, government service, and business, and indeed their general savoir faire, should be placed at the service of their younger counterparts to help them onward in the journeys which all of us must start when we leave school.

The Old Rafflesians' Association - which can probably lay claim to being one of the oldest benevolent associations in our new nation of Malaysia - has played an honourable role in the history of our two leading schools. But I am confident that in measure with the new responsibilities and challenges which we will certainly face in the days ahead, particularly in shaping the character and in making positive and constructive contribution to that whole education of our school students, the Old Rafflesian has an important role to fulfil in building a united Malaysian nation, in fostering communal harmony, and in overcoming the challenge of those elements hostile to democracy. I am confident that the members of the Old Rafflesians' Association will not only continue to maintain its stabilising and benign influence as it has done in the past, but to exert its efforts even more vigorously in order to meet the greater needs of the younger generation in Raffles Institution and Raffles Girls' School.

JUNE 13, 1964.

(Time issued: 1425 hours)

National Archives of Singapore