

SPEECH BY H.E. THE YANG DI-PERTUAN NEGARA,
TUN YUSOF BIN ISHAK, AT THE ANNUAL DINNER
OF THE MALAYSIAN ORCHID SOCIETY ON 20.8.64

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My wife and I have great pleasure to be present here to-night at yet another annual dinner of the Malaysian Orchid Society. This dinner, I understand, has an added significance in that it is purposely held at this time of the year to coincide with the Malaysia day celebrations.

As an orchid enthusiast myself, I have followed with keen interest the activities of the Malaysian Orchid Society and it is most heartening to learn from your President, Mr. Chay Sing Hai, about the achievements of the Society for the past year. The 4th World Orchid Conference was certainly the most outstanding event in the history of the Malaysian Orchid Society. This Conference and the Festival Show which preceded it had not only publicised the quality of our orchid blooms, but I am sure, will go a long way in helping the up and coming orchid industry of ours, particularly the cut orchid blooms which are being air freighted daily in large quantities to different parts of the world. This expanding orchid trade I am sure is contributing in no small measure towards the economy of the country.

I am happy to note that His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong has graciously consented to be the chief patron of the Society. This is certainly a great honour to the Malaysian Orchid Society and it is my earnest hope that the Society will always strive to make it a truly Malaysian organisation in every respect.

I am not very surprised to learn from your President that the membership of the Society to-day stands at more than 1,800 with members in different parts of the world; not surprised because I am fully aware of the tremendous efforts and hardwork the Society has put in to make the Society what it is today - a well known and highly respected organisation in the world of orchids, if not the world itself. Such achievement can only be fully appreciated when one recalls that less than eight years ago, the Society was struggling for survival with only 50 members on the register. The credit for such truly remarkable achievement should not only go to the President and his committee but to each and every member of the Society. With able and dedicated leadership, I have no doubt that the Malaysian Orchid Society will soar to even greater heights of achievements.

Needless to say my wife and I have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at this sumptuous dinner. I would like to thank all of you, in particular the President and his committee, for giving us this opportunity to be with you all to-night and I wish the Malaysian Orchid Society and all its members continued success.

AUGUST 20, 1964.

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