

UNIVERSITY SAINS MALAYSIA

Speech by the Honourable Chief Minister, Penang, on the occasion of the 14th Annual Installation Dinner & Dance of the Lions Club of Penang to be held at the Dragon Palace, Hotel Merlin, Penang, on Saturday, 17th July, 1976 at 8.00 p.m.

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Mr. President, Board of Directors, Members of the Lions Club of Penang, Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen:

My wife and I are very happy to be associated once again with the Lions Club of Penang on this auspicious occasion of your 14th Installation Dinner. We would like to thank your President for his kind invitation.

2. At the outset, I wish to congratulate the Club on another successful and active year. Your projects for the poor and needy and service for the community have by now become a by-word and in keeping with the ideals of Lionism which has as one of its objectives the betterment of our society. The poor and the handicapped we have with us always and the field of social welfare is unlimited. The Government is doing its best to ameliorate distress among the poorer sectors of our country and we are

grateful to service organisations like the Lions Club of Penang for their voluntary service in complementing the efforts of Government in this direction.

3. I note that not only the poor, the handicapped and the aged come within the purview of the Lions Club of Penang. Your members have demonstrated their enthusiasm to better the lot of our rural community and I am happy to learn that your new President and Board of Directors have planned to make the incoming year a truly Lionistic year filled with projects and activities for the greater benefit of our country.

4. This is as it should be. A service club takes satisfaction on the tasks it performs for the public good and it always endeavours to surpass its past achievements. It therefore gives me pleasure to learn that your Incoming President will leave no stone unturned to organise more fund-raising projects without taxing the pockets of your members or soliciting for funds during dinner without sanction from your Finance Committee.



5. It is gratifying to note that the past year has been successful in so far as your projects for the community are concerned. I learn that the incoming year is full of projects and activities not only for the needy and old folks in the State but also projects in the field of education, health and recreation.

6. This is a most praiseworthy effort in the annals of the Lions Club of Penang. The rapid pace of social and economic changes taking place in Malaysia and the influence of foreign civilisation today has brought with it social ills such as drug-abuse and juvenile delinquency. Therefore, it is most important that our younger generation especially those in schools should spend more of their time in sport and games to build up their physiques and health. Other extra-mural activities and their participation in the Scout Movement will channel their youthful exuberance into worthwhile pursuits. I hope the Lions Club of Penang will provide recreational facilities for our younger



generation by making use of the Youth Park for your projects.

7. In Malaysia today, and especially in a multi-racial society like ours, it ~~is~~ very important for all of us to foster goodwill and harmony amongst our citizens. This will in turn create mutual trust, tolerance and understanding which are so essential to the building up of a united and self-reliant society. There is a great need for the citizens to show love and respect towards one another and these qualities amongst our citizens must transcend racial, cultural and even religious differences.

8. We must be united in our struggle to build up national unity and a Malaysian identity of our own since we share a common destiny with one another as brother and sister Malaysians and as loyal citizens of Malaysia. Therefore, we must be prepared to defend our nation against the anti-national and subversive elements who attempt to destroy the stability, peace and security of our people. I am confident that, in addition to the community programmes initiated by the Lions Club of Penang, your members will

also actively participate in the Rukun Tetangga Schemes and the Community Relations Committees. This will help to check undesirable elements and bring peace, security and a spirit of understanding, goodwill and cooperation to the citizens in the areas concerned.

9. In this context, the President and Members of the Lions Club of Penang, in their humanitarian efforts in the service of the community, are following the best traditions of altruism and love for our fellowmen in conformity with the ideals of Lionism. It is gratifying to note that your members have unselfishly sacrificed their time and efforts to help the blind, the sick, the handicapped, the poor and to bring happiness and comfort into their lives. This would not have been possible without men who are willing to make the necessary sacrifices needed to achieve the objectives of Lionism.

10. On behalf of the State Government of Penang, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Outgoing



President, Board of Directors and Members of the Lions Club of Penang for the wonderful achievements which you have made for the fiscal year just ended in the field of education, community development and contributions of cash and food to the poor and needy in our midst.

11. I also extend my sincere congratulations to the Incoming President and his new Board of Directors for having been elected for the fiscal year 1976/1977 and I am confident that all of your members in the Lions Club of Penang will do your best to surpass the achievements made in previous years for the betterment of our society.

12. Ladies and Gentlemen, I now take great pleasure in inviting all of you to rise and join me in a toast to Lions International.

Thank you.