

Speech by the Honourable Chief Minister, Penang, at  
the Penang Medical Practitioners' Society Annual  
Dinner and Dance to be held at the Peking Restaurant,  
Penang on Saturday, 13th Nov. 1976 at 8.00 p.m.

The President and Members of the Penang Medical Practitioners'  
Society,  
The Director of Medical Services, Penang,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies & Gentlemen:

I thank you for having so kindly invited my wife and  
I to your Annual Dinner tonight. It is indeed a great pleasure  
to be with you and I must say right from the outset that if it  
had not been for the fact that I have not to speak, the  
pleasure will be even greater.

2. This dinner tonight of course brings me so much  
amongst old friends and to a way of life which I still long  
for. The wonderful company especially amongst so many old  
friends and colleagues only makes me realise how far away I  
have strayed from what is a good life even in our present day  
society.

3. The speech of your President on the reports of the progress made by the society indeed encourages and stimulates a person like myself who spent so many years of my life as a member of the society.

4. Penang is indeed fortunate in that it is so well served by members of the medical profession and I am sure that all the guests here will join with me in wishing your society continuing progress. They will also like to enjoy their dinner and to proceed with the Fashion Show and therefore I should make my speech very short.

5. Mr. President, I would like only to congratulate you and your Committee and, through your Committee, the members of the Penang Medical Practitioners' Society for the good work that you have done in sustaining the activities of the society.

6. It is still possible for me to recall how the society was formed 44 years later through informal meetings held in my



father's home and how since then I was able to graduate and become a member of the society and now still retain one-foot in as the Honorary Member of the society. Your President's speech has shown how much change and development in medical practice has taken place in the last 15 years. I am sure that you will agree with me that the changes have been for the better.

7. Referring to the problem of drug addiction I must say that I have to stress the social aspects of it more than the pure medical aspects of the problem. Drug abuse and drug addiction is indeed a major social problem. It can be unduly exaggerated but in your society, I am sure, your members fully understand the depth and width of the problem, its significance to the individual, and the consequences the individual problems create in the society.

8. Government is making great efforts to combat drug abuse at different levels of the problems. From the point of

view of fighting drug trafficking, much success has been achieved. In the aspect of dealing with the problem of drug addiction, Government has established PEMADAM in order to assist those who have been unfortunate enough to become addicted to hard drugs. The social problem of drug addiction is also tackled in three phases; namely:

- (i) the problem of the individual himself - his psychological make-up;
- (ii) the period of detoxication; and
- (iii) the period of rehabilitation to society.

9. I hope that the general practitioners who have the opportunity to come into contact with individual cases of drug addiction will cooperate closely with the Government in its efforts to help those involved.

10. I cannot let this occasion go without taking the occasion to thank your energetic Secretary cum Treasurer, Dr.

Lim Eng Chye and members of your Organising Committee for the good work that they have done. I would also on behalf of the Government thank all the members of the Penang Medical Practitioners' Society who have constantly given their support to Government in all its various tasks to build a more united Malaysian society.

11. I hope that the present elect-President, Dr. Ch'ng Keong Aik and the out-going President, Dr. Khoo Heng Sweet will have a good year in the next term of office. To keep to my promise I shall end my speech now. However, short as my speech has been, I hope that you accept the warm hearted sentiments that it conveys which, I am sure, other guests will support by rising up together with me and drink a toast to the continued success of the Penang Medical Practitioners' Society.