

THE OFA PATRONS & TRUSTEES NIGHT

21st SEPTEMBER 2011

Speech by President Mr M.S. Rajendren

His Royal Highness (HRH) the Raja of Perlis, DULI YANG MAHA MULIA TUANKU SYED SIRAJUDDIN ABNI ALMARHUM TUANKU SYED PUTRA JAMALULLAIL, and Her Royal Highness (HRH) The Raja Perempuan Perlis, DULI YANG MAHA MULIA TUANKU TENGKU FAUZIAH BINTI ALMARHUM TENGKU ABDUL RASHID, our highly respected and distinguished Patrons and Trustees, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Frees', Ladies & Gentlemen.

First and foremost, I would like to thank, all of you for attending OFA Patrons & Trustees Night. It is a great pleasure to see our highly respected and distinguished patrons and trustees able to attend and grace this function. This function is held to recognize and appreciate the contribution made by our patrons and trustees to our association and also to share with our distinguished patrons and trustees the progress made by our association in transforming our club to serve the members and the school.

The patrons and the trustees are the backbone of our association. Their continuous guidance and support enable OFA to strive harder to provide the best for the members and the alma mater. Our trustees have ensured that OFA's immovable properties are well protected.

Despite, the Societies Act 1966 which allows an association to hold immovable properties, the Management Committee maintains that the club's assets should be vested with the trustees and not the Management Committee. This is to ensure that the members' interests are well preserved and protected at all times.

Distinguished Guests, Fellow Frees, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to share with our distinguished patrons and trustees that The Old Frees Association is soon to have another clubhouse, near Queensbay Mall, Penang and it will be known as **THE OFA ANNEXE CLUBHOUSE AT BAY AVENUE** and it intends to serve members particularly those who are residing or working at Bayan Lepas area in Penang. As a result of the relocation of the jackpot machines to The OFA Annexe Clubhouse at Bay Avenue, The Old Frees Association has received a sum of RM 300,000 and will receive another sum of RM 200,000 on 1st July 2012. We sincerely hope that more Old Frees, young and old, will come forward to join our association.

It is also my pleasure to inform our highly respected patrons and trustees that OFA is going to produce a souvenir book on the history of the Association before February 2012. The book will be known as **"FIDELIS – A short history of The Old Frees Association"**. The book will focus on the founding history of the association, the establishment of the Association's own premises, the patrons, trustees and other prominent members who have contributed towards the growth and success of the Association over the years.

Distinguished Guests, Fellow Frees, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Old Frees Association has never forgotten or neglected the school, instead it is working very closely with the headmaster, teachers, PFS Parents and Teachers Association (PTA), PFS Board of Governors and PFS Foundation.

This year, OFA has made a provision of RM 50,000 for the school's sports, co-curriculum activities and alma mater. The OFA has allocated another sum of RM 25,000 for activities and events to celebrate the school's bicentenary in 2016. OFA has given financial grants to Old Frees under the OFA Sesquicentenary Education Fund. These grants were given to assist Old Frees to pursue their higher education. These are clear testaments that OFA is working very closely with the school and monitoring its progress and achievements.

It is also important to state that last Wednesday, 14th September, PFS Board of Governors met with The Right Honorable Chief Minister of Penang to discuss three (3) main issues concerning Penang Free School.

Firstly, we have informed the Chief Minister that the Penang Free School Trust Fund (also known as Wang Amanah Sekolah Penang Free School) which was established under The Laws of The Straits Settlement, Chapter 259, Penang Free School (1920) to provide scholarships and prizes to the pupils of Penang Free School. We have brought to the Chief Minister's attention that the aggregate sum of PFS Trust Fund has reduced from RM 348,063 in 2009 to RM 341,328 in 2010 and due to the shortage of fund, the PFS Board of Trustees has reduced the scholarship and book prize monies from RM 16,090 in 2009 to RM 13,350 in 2010. We have humbly requested the Penang State Government to contribute, at least RM 20,000 annually to the PFS Trust Fund.

Secondly, we have requested the Chief Minister of Penang that Penang Free School being the oldest English school in South East Asia, should be accorded with heritage status at the State level. We have also informed the Chief Minister that the school is in the process of submitting an application for heritage status under the National Heritage Act 2005.

Thirdly, we have requested the Penang State Government to return the Headmaster's house to Penang Free School to keep and maintain our school archives. We have brought to the Chief Minister's attention that the Penang Free School Headmaster's house is now occupied by PUSPANITA and they have converted the house into "Homestay" and renting it to the public to generate income for PUSPANITA activities. The Old Frees Association fervently hopes that the Penang State Government will seriously look into the matters raised in the meeting.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Organizing Chairman, my Deputy President, Mr Billy Yeoh and his organizing committee and staff for their hard work, efforts and contributions in making this event a successful and meaningful Event.

THANK YOU.