

## **The official opening of the OFA Bay Avenue on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012**

Speech by

**Mr M.S. Rajendren**

President of Old Frees' Association

Dato' Abdul Rafique bin Abdul Karim, Chairman, PFS Board of Governors and PFS Bicentenary Committee,  
Dr PP Shah, Patron, The Old Frees' Association,  
Dato' Haji Kamil Khalid, President, Old Frees' Association Kuala Lumpur & Selangor,  
Dato' Douglas Cheng, Director, Eternal Leisure Sdn Bhd,  
Mr Saw Saik Mun, Vice-president, The Old Frees' Association and Chairman, OFA annexe clubhouse and jackpot operation sub-committee,  
Members of the OFA management committee and OFA sub-committees,  
Members of the Press,  
Members of The Old Frees' Association and all invited guests.  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for your presence here today to celebrate the official opening of The Old Frees' Association's second official club house at the Bay Avenue.

Today's opening, which marks a new chapter in the long history of the OFA, is the culmination of a patient, four-year-long development plan with our Gaming Management Consultants, Eternal Leisure Sdn Bhd who have been OFA's loyal gaming room operators for many years.

The idea for an annexe clubhouse for the Old Frees' Association has long been a subject of discussion amongst the Old Frees for many years. Though this ambitious idea has always been mooted in many of the association's general meetings, it was always hit by one stumbling block after another due to the lack of a point person to spearhead the discussion plans of the project.

In view of this, when the idea was again raised by our Gaming Management Consultants in 2008, the management committee decided then that it was time for the association to take proactive steps towards making the annexe clubhouse dream a reality due to increase number of Old Frees patrons that were now frequenting the existing clubhouse in Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah. The Old Free technocrats who are working and residing in the south west of the island yearned for OFA clubhouse to be enacted in the vicinity so we decided to respond to their call.

A jackpot subcommittee was formed for the first time in 2009 and we sat down with our gaming management consultants throughout the year to work out the financing plans of the 'new OFA clubhouse'. It was long and tedious process as the jackpot and management committees have always realised that whatever we did and whatever we said, we were representing The Old Frees'

Association's best interest and the members and therefore, we were mindful to act with only their best interests in our minds.

It was a heavy responsibility to be carried and I must say here that we have acquitted ourselves well to that responsibility. I would especially like to commend the work of the inaugural jackpot subcommittee members who have worked so hard to iron out a contract with our gaming management a consultant which has directly brought about a development the new annexe clubhouse you are looking at right now. A round of applause for them please!

Ladies and gentlemen,

This annexe clubhouse in Bay Avenue will be an important supplement to our existing club facilities at Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah. This new OFA annexe clubhouse occupies two floors of a contiguous four-lot, three-storey building which has a total floor area of about 14,300 square feet.

One of the floors will be for the jackpot machine operations with the 'Golden Mirage' while the other floor will house the members' new facilities. They include and I know you are waiting for this:

- A Karaoke room,
- A Members' lounge,
- A Home theatre room,
- A Gymnasium and a yoga/aerobics area
- A Sauna bath and changing rooms with lockers
- A Table games room for chess, carom and mahjong,
- A Computer room with high-speed WiFi,
- A well-stocked Library,
- A Management room with telephone, fax machine and photocopier as well as Conference room complete with whiteboard and projector unit.

What more can I say? Can we have a big round of applause please!

The Old Frees' Association is confident that with this annexe clubhouse, we shall make the association even more accessible to our fellow Old Frees in the north east area such as Bayan Lepas, Bayan Baru, Batu Maung, Relau and even other nearby areas such as the Province Wellesley. This will definitely elevate the fellowship level amongst the old frees even further on the island which is also in line with one of the association's founding principles in 1923.

As we are looking towards our Alma Mater's Bicentenary celebration in 2016, we are also confident that this annexe clubhouse will also attract the vast pool of existing Old Frees who are yet to be OFA members to officially join our big family. It promises to be exciting times for the Old Frees' Association.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before I end this short address, I wish to record my utmost appreciation and thanks to the OFA management committee and OFA 2011 annexe clubhouse and jackpot operation sub-committee Chairman, Mr Saw Saik Mun and the sub-committee members, namely, Mr Tan Heng Swee, Mr Kenny Wong, Mr Lee Eu Beng and the few MC members such as Mr Billy Yeo, Mr Lo Liang Kheng and Mr Kevin Ooi, who worked very hard to ensure that we are able to open this annexe clubhouse within a month from the date of the SGM that approved the additional budget of RM120,000 for this clubhouse.

I also wish to record my thanks to the previous OFA management committee for their effort in the annexe clubhouse negotiations and most of all, the OFA members for bravely moving forward into the 22<sup>nd</sup> century with our new annexe clubhouse.

*Fortis Atque Fidelis!*

Thank you.

M.S. Rajendren