

11 DEC 1996
Professorship
SANUSI MADE PROFESSOR BY NANKING UNIVERSITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid was made a professor by the Nanking University near Shanghai in China today for his contributions in the field of agriculture.

Sanusi, who was Agriculture Minister for nine years until last year, in his speech accepting the professorship at a ceremony at the university, said China's massive transformation from a poor nation to a world economic power was something never before witnessed by humankind. His text of speech was released here.

He said both China and Malaysia were going through great changes, thanks to the free enterprise system.

"We in Malaysia believe that, whatever the shortcomings that exist in a free enterprise system, it is still the best so far," said Sanusi, who during his term as Agriculture Minister introduced a number of innovations to kick start the rural economy.

Citing a forecast by the World Bank, Sanusi said if everything went well, by the year 2020, China would have overtaken the United States as the largest economic power on earth.

China's needs in the field of energy to fuel its economic growth was also expected to be phenomenal -- it would require one new large electricity power station every week for the next 15 years.

By the year 2010 China was also expected to import three million barrels of oil a day more than the entire output on the North Sea.

Sanusi, devoting his speech to the subject of change and leadership, said for change to take place in the right direction, organisations, societies and nation, needed leadership.

"In this Information Era, with Internet and what else to come, ideas and knowledge are freely available. The responsibility of a leader therefore is not just to choose between existing and available ideas but also to be able to communicate these ideas convincingly," he said.

In this regard, Sanusi told his Chinese audience about how the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had helped transform Malaysia into an industrial nation.

Sanusi said the coming of Dr Mahathir was a historical event for Malaysia and a historical necessity.

"Dr Mahathir is the precondition for the present growth of Malaysia. Dr Mahathir is a proud Asian who believes in what he says and says what he believes in. He is courageous.

"For China, I need to say only one word to describe Dr Mahathir -- trustworthy," he added.

According to Sanusi, leadership is not about style, but about ideas and values.

"A stylish leader, without ideas and with conflicting values, is just an actor on the stage of history. Entertaining, but without substance. Popular, but without direction," he said.

Sanusi also said it was necessary to promote a people-to-people contact in East Asia to nurture a United Asia as part of a United World in the future.

In this interdependent world, it was also necessary for more students to learn more than one language to facilitate communication, he said.

Even Japan, he said, was taking a brave move to establish the Asia Pacific University with English as the medium of instruction although the

country could afford not to have such a university.

He said besides Mandarin, the world's most spoken language, and English, the language for international communication, Malay is the second most spoken language in East Asia. About 200 million people in Southeast Asia speak Malay, the majority of whom are from Indonesia.

Referring to the professorship which he received, Sanusi said it was an honour for which he and his family would never forget. -- BERNAMA

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