

**SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE STAFF
TRAINING CENTRE, KUALA LUMPUR ON
19TH SEPTEMBER, 1963**

The Hon'ble Mr. Seath, Your Excellencies, Hon'ble Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the last two days we have witnessed various forms of celebrations being held at various towns and villages stretching from Kangar in Pedis to Jesselton in Sabah (North Borneo) to mark the birth of our new nation, Malaysia. And today we are gathered here again to witness yet another celebration, the opening of our 1st Malaysia Staff Training Centre by the Hon'ble Mr. Seath, the Associate Finance Minister of New Zealand, who is here today with us as the special representative of his dynamic country, New Zealand to our Malaysia celebration.

On this occasion it is fitting for me, on behalf of the Malaysian Government, to thank the New Zealand Government most sincerely for her kindness and generosity in donating to us a sum of NZ£60,000 (M\$510,000) towards the cost of this beautiful and modern building. I need hardly stress the importance of a Training Centre such as this to any country especially to a country like Malaya and Malaysia which is embarking on an extensive development programme of various kinds to give our people a higher and better standard of living and a rightful and dignified place in our country. In the old Federation of Malaya we launched our Second Five Year Development Plan early 1961 and we passed the half way mark in the implementation of that Plan. We can say with modest satisfaction that we have been able to implement that Plan most satisfactorily and in many cases the projects have been completed ahead of schedule. This very satisfying state of affairs is due to the respond by the civil servants of all grades to the call to action by Government to do their utmost in carrying out the Plan. I like to say here that we are very grateful to our civil servants of all grades

for the way in which they have served our young nation. We have now a machinery of Government which is capable of carrying out development far more than we can afford to finance or to find the money.

However much we have done, there is still plenty to do before our people of all races, particularly those living in the villages, are able to receive those amenities in life required of a modern and civilised society. There is, therefore, need for us to continue to train our officers at all levels so that our Government machinery will not only be maintained in its present level of efficiency but will be able to stand the strain of further and greater programme of development, particularly with the needs of our new nation, Malaysia. Among other things, it is sound and efficient administration that will ensure the future peaceful and steady development of our new nation Malaysia. That is why we are so grateful to the New Zealand Government for this very generous gift given at such an opportune time in the development of our nation.

I should like to add, as far back as 1950 there was already the realization in this country for the need of such a training centre. This need was even more urgently felt when we achieved our independence in 1957. But owing to lack of funds and other factors we were not able to establish one until this generous gesture was made to us by the New Zealand Government. In the meantime courses were held for our Government staff at various places. Courses for the administrative officers were held at Port Dickson while courses for clerical staff were held here in Kuala Lumpur itself. And now with the establishment of this Centre all these courses would in future be satisfactorily carried out at this Centre.

In order to carry out the function of this Centre satisfactorily, a number of the officers of this Centre has already been sent overseas to study the new and modern techniques of training. One has been sent on a training course to the United Kingdom, one to New Zealand on a scholarship provided by the New Zealand Government itself, and another to Australia. The Principal of this Centre has been on a training course to Canada on a scholarship provided by the Canadian Government. Before the establishment

of this Centre, we have been fortunate to have for three months in 1961 the services of an expert on Staff Training from New Zealand. All these have gone a long way in making this Centre what it is today. I should also like to make a special mention of the generosity of the Ford Foundation in making its fund available on many occasions to meet the Centre's various expenses, such as for furniture and books since 1959.

I would also like to congratulate our Public Works Department for the planning and finally the building of this beautiful Centre. To the Principal of this Centre, as well as other staff members, I wish them every success. I have no doubt that all Government departments will give their support and co-operation to this Centre in order to ensure the desired success.

Finally, I now have much pleasure in inviting the Hon'ble Mr. Seath in declaring the Centre open.