

UCAPAN PERDANA MENTERI DI MAJLIS
JAMUAN DATUK BANDAR, KUALA LUMPUR
DI HOTEL HILTON, KUALA LUMPUR PADA
22HB MAC, 1974

Y.B. Tan Sri Yaacob, Datuk Bandar Wilayah Persekutuan, Y.B. Menteri-menteri, Dif-dif yang terhormat, Tuan-tuan dan puan-puan.

Pertama sekali suka saya mengucapkan terimakasih kepada Tan Sri Yaacob dan juga Ahli-ahli Majlis Ibu Kota atau *City Fathers* atas jemputan mereka kepada saya berdua malam ini. Majlis yang gilang gemilang ini amat penting dan besar ertinya kepada kita sekalian oleh kerana inilah yang pertama kali diadakan setelah Ibu Kota Kuala Lumpur diisytiharkan sebagai Wilayah Persekutuan.

Bagi saya sendiri, saya amat sukacita kerana mendapat kesempatan malam ini untuk bertemu muka dengan orang-orang yang terkemuka dalam masyarakat kita hari ini—eminent citizens from our business and industrial community, professionals and civil leaders who are the mainstay of our society.

Sebagaimana dikatakan oleh Datuk Bandar tadi, malam ini kita bersama-sama memulakan satu tradisi. Meskipun kita telah menghadiri majlis seperti ini sejak Kuala Lumpur menjadi Bandaraya dua tahun dahulu. Hal ini memanelah lazim dibuat oleh masyarakat Ibu Negara yang maju sebagai menandakan rasa kegembiraan kita di samping memberikan saya kesempatan yang baik untuk bermesra dan juga menghuraikan perkara-perkara yang penting bagi kita semua.

Saya sukacita mendengar kata-kata Datuk Bandar kita terutama mengenai perkembangan dan kemajuan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur ini pada masa akan datang. Semasa saya meletakkan batu asas monument untuk memperingati tapak asal bandar Kuala Lumpur, antara lain-lain, saya telah menegaskan pentingnya kita menjaga perkembangan Kuala Lumpur ini di masa akan datang. Di samping mengekalkan unsur-unsur sejarah, mustahaklah juga kita menjaga keindahan Bandaraya ini dalam berbagai aspek dan dalam hubungan ini usaha-usaha menanam pokok dan bunga, membuat pancutan air dan lebih-lebih lagi mengawal kebersihan seperti

kata Datuk Bandar tadi sangat disanjung tinggi. We should see to it that future development of Kuala Lumpur should really be compatible with its status as our National Capital and the focal point of loyalty and pride of our eleven million citizens.

In this context, I think it is also important for us to give close attention to those matters connected with the day-to-day life of our citizens—housing, education, transport as well as cultural and recreational facilities which will ensure the quality of life we all desire and cherish. I would like to echo the sentiments expressed by our Datuk Bandar just now calling for the support and co-operation of all, particularly our business and industrial community, professionals and civic organisations in carrying out such projects which we can proudly bequeath to the later generations.

Tuan-tuan dan puan-puan.

Seperti yang saya katakan tadi, saya ingin mengambil kesempatan malam ini untuk membincangkan perkara-perkara yang bersangkutan dengan masyarakat kita, keadaan dalam negeri dan perkembangan-perkembangan yang berlaku dalam hubungan luar negeri. Saya ingin berterus terang di sini dengan tuan-tuan dan puan-puan supaya kita dapat bersama-sama memikirkan apa jua langkah yang patut kita ambil sebagai tanggungjawab kita kepada masyarakat dan negara.

Masalah besar yang dihadapi oleh negara kita hari ini ialah inflasi atau kenaikan harga barang-barang terutama barang-barang keperluan orang ramai. Sebenarnya perkara ini bukanlah terhad kepada kita sahaja bahkan seluruh dunia adalah terlibat dengan tekanannya. Dalam hal ini, masyarakat bandar terutama golongan yang berpendapatan kecil merasakan tekanan yang hebat oleh kerana kekurangan bekalan menyebabkan harga barang-barang meningkat sehari demi sehari.

Berikutan dengan ini, timbul pula satu masalah baru iaitu perbuatan setengah-setengah kaum peniaga menyorokkan barang-barang dengan tujuan hendak mendapat untung yang berlebihan—hoarding of essential goods with the intention of exploiting the consumer public.

Saya telah seringkali menerangkan iaitu mengenai inflasi yang berpunca dari luar—imported inflation—kita terpaksa menanggungnya oleh sebab kita memerlukan barang-barang itu sedangkan kita sendiri tidak dapat mengeluarkannya. So long as these

goods are required, and these include essential commodities, we have to pay the price determined by the exporting countries. Fortunately, we ourselves are producers of essential foodgrains and we need only import some quantity of rice, mainly for our people in Sabah and Sarawak where rice production is not adequate for local consumption. There are however, many ways in which our people can help themselves in mitigating the effects of inflation—they can grow vegetables in their backyard, they can rear poultry, but more important is to postpone or, if possible, avoid making unnecessary purchases especially luxury items. Satu daripada cara yang mustahak bagi mengatasi inflasi ialah mengurangkan pengelilingan wang or to reduce the amount of money circulating in the country.

Government, of course, has taken several measures to lessen the burden of hardship especially of the low-income group. Special Relief Allowance is paid to those earning less than 5300 a month since October last year and I am glad to say that the private sector has also followed the Government's lead. At the same time, Government has also lifted the import quota on some essential items and exempted these from excise duties. We know that in spite of what Government has done to counter the inflationary trend, including the restriction of bank credit, we still hear discordant notes of criticism from some quarters. In point of fact, the Government today is spending millions of dollars in subsidising the consuming public in respect of essential items such as rice, sugar, flour, kerosene while the subsidy on textbooks is further increased this year amounting to S60 million. We shall continue to arrest the inflationary trends and take whatever measures necessary—financial or otherwise—to bring it down to a reasonable level.

Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan.

Dalam context inilah Kerajaan sangat memandang berat atas perbuatan orang-orang yang tidak bertanggungjawab menyorokkan barang-barang keperluan semata-mata untuk tujuan menganiaya orang ramai dengan mengambil keuntungan yang berlebih-lebihan. Mereka sama sekali tidak bertimbang rasa dalam keadaan orang ramai sedang menghadapi kesulitan, mereka hanya memikirkan kepentingan diri sendiri dan mengambil kesempatan dari penderitaan rakyat. Indeed it is in such times as this that the test of loyalty bears upon us and every one of us who

considers himself to be a good and loyal citizen should stand solidly behind the Government and give it every support. We have no place for hoarders and profiteers in our midst and it is for this reason that the Government is requesting the help of the people to seek out these undesirable elements and give them their due. The Government will spare no effort to stop this evil practice and bring the offenders to book.

Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan.

Dalam ucapan saya menyambut tahun 1974, saya telah menyatakan rasa bimbang mengenai keadaan keselamatan dalam negeri terutama dengan adanya kegiatan Parti Komunis Malaya menyusup ke tengah masyarakat. Berkat kewaspadaan dan keazaman kita serta kehandalan dan pengorbanan pasukan keselamatan, ancaman musuh-musuh negara itu telah dapat dikawal. Bahkan saya percaya kita semua berasa gembira dengan kejayaan kita baru-baru ini di Sarawak iaitu peristiwa perletakan senjata beramai-ramai oleh pasukan komunis P A R A K U yang kembali ke pangkuan masyarakat. Kita sama-sama berharap peristiwa di Sarawak itu akan mendorong anasir-anasir Komunis di Semenanjung Malaysia supaya menginsafi kenyataan yang sebenar dan menghentikan perjuangan mereka yang sia-sia itu.

Had ini dengan terbentuknya Barisan Nasional atau Nasional Front menggabungkan tenaga parti-parti politik tanahair yang mewakili bahagian terbesar rakyat Malaysia, lebih nyatalah arah haluan perjuangan kita hendak membina negara yang bersatu, makmur dan maju. Perkembangan-perkembangan pada masa akhir-akhir ini dan kemenangan pihak Kerajaan dalam beberapa pilihanraya kecil jelas membuktikan sokongan rakyat terhadap cita-cita demokrasi yang kita junjung tinggi dan hasrat hendak membina satu masyarakat baru yang kekal untuk zaman berzaman. The success of the New Economic Policy will determine the destiny of our nation. I have no doubt of the fact that in forthcoming general elections, our people will continue to support the Government in its quest to establish a just society in which every Malaysian will have rightful place and equal opportunity to pursue his life ambition. Even today our young people have access to vast opportunities in the field of higher education and other specialised training compared to the generation before independence. The future is indeed bright for our nation and it is our duty to make this a living reality.

Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan.

In the field of foreign relations, there is every reason to feel satisfied that, as a result of the groundwork we have done and the initiatives we have taken in the last three years, we have made remarkable progress. A review of our foreign policy undertaken when I assumed office as Prime Minister led to a number of conclusions. I can only refer here with some of the conclusions. Among them were, first, that regionalism and regional co-operation would be a corner-stone of our foreign policy. Second, that we would follow a foreign policy of strict non-alignment, and third, that we would seek to have friendly relations with as many countries as possible and strengthen our links with those countries with whom we have common interests.

Looking back over the last three and half years, it is fair to ask how far we have succeeded in implementing these guide-lines. Our relations with our immediate neighbours are, if I may say so, better than good. My own visits to Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, and also Burma, a good friend of Malaysia though not an immediate neighbour, have shown how intimate our ties are. Together with the other A S E A N members, we have co-operated closely in a variety of economic and social projects and we have worked hard to ensure the success of ASEAN, which we hope one day will embrace the other countries of Southeast Asia. The establishment of the Central Secretariat of A S E A N at the next Foreign Minister's meeting in Jakarta in May will be an important milestone in the history of A S E A N. But more than the individual projects, more than the formal institutionalisation of ASEAN is the success of ASEAN in the last few years in forging together a spirit of regional understanding and cohesion among its members. The value of this success is difficult to measure but is to me the single most important achievement of A S E A N.

Our regional and our non-aligned approach to foreign relations find its most succinct expression in the proposal for the Neutralisation of Southeast Asia. That proposal is now embodied in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration of ASEAN countries which has since been endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference as well as by the Non-Aligned Summit. The officials of the five ASEAN countries in the meantime have been hard at work in giving flesh to the bare bones of the Declaration adopted in Kuala Lumpur in November 1971. Considerable progress has

therefore been made and their work will become very important when the political conditions are ripe for the realization of the proposal.

I have said earlier that we are strictly non-aligned. We have played an active role in the Preparatory Committee which prepared for the Algiers Summit last September and we continue to be a member in the reconstituted Co-ordination Committee, which has been charged to look after the interests of the Non-Aligned Group. Our non-aligned foreign policy is also reflected in our establishing formal diplomatic relations recently with North Korea, East Germany and North Vietnam. Perhaps it can be said that our non-aligned policy shows itself, above else, in our relations with China. Today we enjoy good relations with the United States and the Soviet Union. We were a strong supporter of the right of the People's Republic of China to her seat at the United Nations during the General Assembly debates on this question in 1971, which saw the seating of the PRC in the United Nations. The last three years have also seen the exchange of trade delegations as well as cultural and sporting delegations between Malaysia and China. We have therefore done much to break down the barrier of misunderstanding and misapprehension between our two countries and peoples. Since last June, we have held a series of official discussions in New York with the Chinese side, with a view to the formal establishment of diplomatic relations and the exchange of diplomatic missions. These talks have covered the various problems connected with the establishment of diplomatic ties between our two countries. I am happy to say that our discussions in New York have been carried out in friendly and cordial atmosphere and these discussions will be successfully concluded soon. With the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, an important milestone would have been reached in our history. In terms of foreign policy, with which I am concerned here, it sets the seal to our non-aligned foreign policy, to our neutralisation proposal, and to the wish we have often articulated that is to be friendly with all countries irrespective of their ideology or social system on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference.

There are certain characteristics of Malaysia which find reflection in the pattern of our relations. We are, first of all, a Southeast Asian country and hence we have established particularly close

relations with our neighbours in this strife-torn region as a matter of priority. We are a Commonwealth country and hence, as a product of history, we enjoy good relations with countries such as Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India and Pakistan (which was once a member), Ceylon, Nigeria and other Commonwealth African countries. We are a developing country with abundant natural resources and at the same time an industrialising one with a reputation for stability and efficiency. Hence we have succeeded in establishing good relations with the major industrialised nations. We are a non-aligned country and therefore along with our good relations with the West, we have also cultivated friendly relations with the Socialist countries of Eastern Europe. As an important non-aligned country, we also naturally enjoy close relations with other non-aligned countries such as Yugoslavia, Algeria and Egypt. True to our non-aligned principles, we maintain friendly relations with the two super-powers, the United States and Soviet Union, and we are now well on the path to establishing relations with China. Finally, as a Muslim country, we have special ties with the Muslim world as indicated by our participation at the successful Summit in Lahore, our staunch support for the Islamic Secretariat, and our hosting the next Islamic Foreign Ministers Meeting here in Kuala Lumpur.

The pattern of our relations has therefore been set by the characteristics of our country: our location in Southeast Asia, our historical ties in the Commonwealth, the nature of our richly endowed and rapidly industrialising economy, our non-aligned foreign policy, and our identity as a Muslim country. As a result, we have established deep and abiding ties with a large number of countries, and we can therefore look forward with confidence to the years ahead in our foreign relations—in the expansion of the horizons of our friendship and trade relations.

Adalah jelas corak perhubungan luar negeri kita ditentukan oleh keadaan negara kita sendiri—kedudukannya di Asia Tenggara; pertalian sejarahnya dengan negara-negara Commonwealth; kekayaan ekonomi negara dengan hasil-hasil buminya dan sedang pesat membangun perindustrian; dasar luar negeri kita yang berkecuali dan identiti atau keperibadian kita sebagai sebuah negara Islam. Dengan yang demikian, kita telah berhasil menjalin tali perhubungan yang erat serta berkekalan dengan kebanyakan negara di seluruh dunia. Kita boleh memandang ke masa hadapan

dengan penuh keyakinan untuk meluaskan bidang persahabatan serta hubungan dagang luar negeri dalam tahun-tahun akan datang.

Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan.

Seperti yang saya katakan tadi, hari depan negara kita, amat cerah dan saya yakin akan keazaman rakyat mencapai cita-cita nasional sepenuhnya. Bagaimanapun jalan ke arah itu masih jauh dan buat masa ini boleh dikatakan kita sedang menempuh masa ujian—or passing through the testing years. The times are difficult and there are numerous problems that we have to face boldly. I am certain we shall go through this test victoriously provided there is a sense of unity and above all a sense of social discipline among our people in the overall interest of the nation, each and every Malaysian should strive to work for the common good and uphold the principles of Rukunegara which embodies the identity and the spirit of our nationhood.

The nagging problem of inflation will continue to be with us for some time but with united efforts and determination of the Government and the people, Insya Allah, we will endeavour to contain these inflationary trends within reasonable proportion.

Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan.

Akhir kata, saya sekali lagi mengucapkan terimakasih atas kerjasamaj yang diberikan oleh semua pihak terhadap Kerajaan dan saya berharap mudah-mudahan usaha kita yang baik untuk membina dan memajukan Wilayah Persekutuan ini dan sebuah Negara yang aman makmur akan mendapat sepenuh kejayaan. Dengan izin Tuhan, kita boleh memandang ke hadapan dengan penuh kesyukuran dan keyakinan kepada masa hadapan yang cemerlang dan bahagia.