

TR 1:11:75

UCAPAN PERDANA MENTERI KETIKA
MELANCARKAN PENUBUHAN MAJLIS PENYE-
LIDIKAN DAN KEMAJUAN SAINS NEGARA DI
BILIK GERAKAN PERDANA MENTERI, JALAN
DATO' ONN, KUALA LUMPUR PADA 1HB
NOVEMBER, 1975

Y.A.B. Datuk Hussein Onn, Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Y.B.
Datuk Mohamad Yakub, Menteri Tenaga, Teknologi dan Penye-
lidikan, Dif-dif Terhormat, Saudara-saudara sekalian.

Saya mengucapkan berbanyak terima kasih di atas jemputan kepada saya untuk melancarkan Majlis Penyelidikan dan Kema-
juan Sains Negara atau rengkasnya MPKSN pada pagi ini. Penu-
buan Majlis ini sangat besar maknanya lebih-lebih lagi dalam
usaha kita untuk meninggikan mutu dan taraf penyelidikan sains
di negara kita, dan juga merupakan langkah permulaan yang
positif ke arah kemajuan negara dalam zaman sains dan teknologi
sekarang ini.

Saudara-saudara sekalian,

Since 1968, the Government has been considering to establish
such a Council but its formation had been delayed because of
several factors, especially the choice of an appropriate agency to
initiate this action and later to service such a Council when it has
been established. I wish therefore to congratulate the Ministry of
Power, Technology and Research for having successfully pursued
the matter to its final conclusion so that today we have before
us a group of eminent persons, each an expert in his own field,
to form the Council.

The need for a Council of this nature had been stressed by
various quarters from time to time over the years. And I can
assure you that the Government has all along been aware that
there is an urgent and vital need to have a central body to co-
ordinate all scientific and technological research activities within
the country and also to advise the Government on how scientific
activities can best serve the country's development.

Perhaps a little background on the events leading to the formation of the Council will indicate how actively the matter had been pursued.

As early as June 1968, Cabinet had approved the formation of a National Scientific Research Advisory Council but implementation of the Cabinet decision had been delayed because of plans to set up the National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (NISIR) which was expected to perform somewhat identical functions as the proposed National Scientific and Research Advisory Council. But when NISIR was formed in 1971, it was found that, due to certain factors and constraints, it could not adequately perform the functions of the Science Council.

To overcome this, the National Action Council in 1974, set up a Committee to look in depth into the formation of a National Council for Scientific Research and Industrial Development, in particular its various aspects and functions. Finally, after several deliberations within itself and with other relevant bodies, recommendations were made to the Cabinet. Much thought and effort have been given to the formation of this Council and I am confident that with the sound groundwork already established, the Council will be able to take off to good start.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, the need to utilise Science and Technology as a base to spearhead development in the country will ensure the maximum use of resources at our disposal. Also the importance of science and technology has been emphasised and given due recognition in our Development Plans and in the implementation of our New Economic Policy. In our effort to achieve this, we cannot afford to waste our resources of funds and manpower through duplication of scientific work which at present is diffused over a number of departments, agencies and institutions.

Similarly, success in our quest for self-sufficiency and self-reliance vis-a-vis the ultimate parity with developed nations does not merely depend on the amount of good work that will have to be done to satisfy existing needs but also the ability of the Government to think well ahead and devise schemes and programmes which will be put to effective use without the waste of time and effort.

Therefore, it will be the role of this Council to promote and coordinate scientific research and related activities in all existing bodies and to formulate a National Science Policy geared to our national development effort by providing an integrated approach to science planning for the country as a whole and also by working out programmes and project priorities in relation to the country's development targets. The functions of the Council have further been outlined as follows:

- (i) Be responsible for the scientific policy of the nation;
- (ii) To serve as the National Scientific Consultative and Advisory Body to Government;
- (iii) To identify Research and Development activities beneficial to the nation;
- (iv) To initiate, co-ordinate and monitor Research and Development activities of the nation and to ensure maximum utilisation of resources;
- (v) To develop the country's manpower potential for Research and Development activities and award research scholarships and fellowships;
- (vi) To collect and disseminate information on Research and Development; print and publish documents related to Research and Development;
- (vii) To promote a free interplay in Research and Development between the private and public sectors;
- (viii) To recommend appropriate legislation for Research and Development activities;
- (ix) To provide liaison with other countries in Research and Development; and
- (x) To undertake all other actions and measures that will promote speedy and effective scientific Research and Development in the country.

As I have mentioned earlier, members of the Council have been carefully selected from among the country's best in various scientific, technical and socio-economic fields as well as those in the Government. With your background and experience, I have full confidence that the Council will be able to perform its duties and functions satisfactorily. The tasks ahead of this Council are

varied and numerous but I have no doubt that members of the Council will be able to come out with practical recommendations to solve the many problems we face today.

One aspect of your function which needs urgent review is the development of the country's manpower potential for research and development. Although the responsibility for developing the Malaysian manpower is essentially that of the Education planners, the Government will however determine the areas in which it intends to support major research efforts in order to increase the capacity and ability of our resources of manpower in the professional and technical services and also in research.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am also aware of the fact that as is presently constituted, this Council has its limitation. Being essentially advisory in nature, its ultimate success will depend on the co-operation of those agencies and institutions involved in scientific and technical research and activities. But I am sure these agencies and institutions will only be too willing to give their fullest co-operation and support to the Council. On this depends the very success of this Council and as these agencies too had been involved in the formation of this Council, I am very sure they will give their full and whole-hearted co-operation.

Saudara-saudara sekalian,

Maka dengan ini saya dengan sukacitanya melancar dengan rasminya Majlis Penyelidikan dan Kemajuan Sains Negara ini serta mengucapkan selamat berjaya.



Y.A.B. Tun Haji Abdul Razak bin Hussein di upacara melancarkan Majlis Penyelidikan dan Kemajuan Sain Negara di Bilik Gerakan Perdana Menteri, Kuala Lumpur pada 1hb November, 1975