

GREAT TASK LIES AHEAD FOR ALL ENGINEERS

A call to members of the engineering profession to give even greater service towards the achievement of Malaysia's national aims was made by Tun Razak when he spoke at the annual dinner of the Institute of Engineers, Malaysia, in Kuala Lumpur on 23rd April, 1966.

I would in fact be happier to be the guest of your Institution of Engineers in *10 years lime*, because I notice from the newspapers that Engineering as a profession is attracting beautiful ladies to join its ranks, and only recently Malaysia was able to rejoice the fact that we now possess a fully qualified female Electrical Engineer!

How much more pleasant for me tonight to stand up in front of an Institution of Female Engineers rather than looking at this mass of mechanical men!

I am sure if eventually your Institution so develops to have a quorum of female engineers then your Annual Dinner will become a more pleasant and nicer evening and I am sure that your speakers would derive more inspiration when they stand up and face a bevy of "beautiful" engineers.

Perhaps also when that day comes I will be invited *without* my wife. I am not saying that my wife is not qualified to attend this dinner tonight. She, like most wives, without having taken a degree, is also an engineer.

In fact Gentlemen. I think that perhaps all our wives are "Engineers" but as yet I have never been able to discover what during their morning coffee sessions in our absence, these wives try and "engineer". They are always engineering something behind their husband's back.

You may not think that I as a politician, and worse still, as a lawyer, can possibly be *unselfish* in my approach in talking to you, but nevertheless I have no option, in praising the achievements of our nation over the last five years of our **Development**, than to forget my own profession and think of yours!

I have to admit that most of the credit for making Malaysia the modern and progressive place it is today, is credit which must

go to the *engineering capacity* of our country which you, gathered here tonight, represent.

To support my words on the achievement of our development progress so far with particular emphasis on those sectors of our economy for which our Malaysian engineers have been responsible, I would like to quote an extract from an opinion given by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

"About 52% of the total public sector investment has been in power and water utilities, transport facilities and communications in which investment has nearly tripled compared with the five years previous to 1961. This has resulted in the improvement of an already sound national infrastructure. The 12% per annum growth in power demand has been met efficiently, and water and sewerage facilities have steadily improved. Telecommunications services on the Malayan Peninsula are steadily improving Postal Services are both efficient and profitable to the Government. There has been considerable expenditure on introducing television which might in the long run become an asset. In the transportation field, roads and bridges alone accounted for 17.5% of the country's public investment. Some of this investment—for example the improvements which have benefited the rapidly expanding road haulage industry has been fully justified . . . In general the volume and allocation of capital expenditure has been sound and the record of execution has been unusually good."

These words which I have quoted are extracts of the summing up of our last Development Plan.

They are the result of observations made by purely neutral, independent and outside observers who have taken a critical look at the way we are developing and implementing development.

I quote these words as an encouragement to all of you here tonight who have a part to play in the further development progress of our country because the main burden of modern development in this present day and age lies on the shoulders of the profession to which you all belong, the profession of engineering in its many and multiple fields.

Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, my message to you tonight is that we resolve to make the next five years in this development process of Malaysia even more successful than the Five-Year Plan which extended from 1961 to 1965.

Applying the principles of true democratic Governments we in the Government welcome and encourage a contribution of suggestions and ideas from every voluntary organization and your Institution seems to be the perfect place for me to announce this project and to call on you to get together, plan together, and put up to my Ministry any suggestions you may have for the layout and presentation of such a development exhibition which would become a permanent feature in our national capital.

Looking to the immediate future, with particular emphasis on the implementation of the First Malaysia Development Plan. I think that every one throughout the whole country, whether it be Engineers or whatever their profession may be. must remember that national funds for development are not unlimited.

If we in Malaysia are to achieve the maximum amount of development in the minimum possible time then we must get 100% value for every single dollar we spend on development.....

It is indeed gratifying to hear from your President that in your Institution no one can rightly call himself an Engineer unless he can do satisfactorily for one dollar what other people would need twice that sum. If there is ever formed an Institution comprising the large consulting firms operating in this country I hope that you will be able to persuade these expensive consultants to use the same dictum.

Perhaps you might even have special tender forms printed with this dictum written at the top to continually remind consultants to keep their prices down.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, I cannot sit down without offering your Institution my congratulations. Although this is only the seventh year in the life of your Institution you already have a record of which you can justly be proud.

In 1961, scarcely two years after its inception, your institution was admitted as a full member of the Commonwealth Engineering Conference.

This admission of membership meant not only international recognition as the professional engineering body of Malaysia but also recognition of the high standards which all of you uphold both in the professional conduct and in the training of your

members. Therefore it was with the greatest pleasure that my Government recognises the corporate membership of your Institution to be sufficient qualification for entry into the public service.

Having said that I still cannot sit down and in case you misrepresent my praise and sit back on your laurels of past achievements.

A great task lies ahead for all of you in the implementation of our National Development Plan and I hope that from time to time when you have meetings of your Institution, you would take as a subject for discussion and action a copy of the First Malaysia Plan and sit down together, study it, discuss it and argue about it and see for yourselves ways and means whereby you can equip yourselves to give even greater service in your profession towards the achievement of our national aims and the guaranteeing of our national progress.

DESPITE THE CRITICISMS MALAYSIA HAS GROWN CONSIDERABLY

"True to the principle of parliamentary democracy, our people can always, if they wish, criticise the government but this has not hampered the progress of the country \ said Tun Razak when he spoke at the sixth anniversary dinner of the Malayan Association of Chartered Institute of Secretaries on 18th June, 1966.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you know, at this very moment Parliament is debating the Royal Address and the debate on the Royal Address can be said to be an inquest of the nation and of the country.

In the last few days, sitting in Parliament, I felt myself like a goal-keeper in a football match. Continuous attempts were made to shoot at the goal, not only from the opposite side, i.e., from the Opposition Party, but sometimes, either intentionally or inadvertently, the kicks also came from members of my own team. So as a "goal-keeper". I had to be continually on the alert. I wished that I were an expert at keeping goal as some of the goal-keepers I have seen at international football matches!