

# WHAT MARA OFFERS TO THE BUMIPUTRA

## PART OF OUR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

*Tun Razak returned to the theme of wholehearted participation by the bumiputra in commerce and industry by availing themselves of the advice and assistance provided by MARA. Fullest application of energy and hard work by them **was** necessary and important for success, he added.*

MARA is only a part of what the Alliance Government's programme of Development is for *the whole Nation*. but MARA is an *important and vital part* in so far as it affects the economy and progress of our kampong people, of which you, who are gathered here today, are *the leaders* in your own respective areas

It is my intention to create a "wind of change" which will spread over the entire country in order to make everyone realise that the responsibility for leadership is not confined to the hands of a few selected Ministers, but *is in the hands* of many thousands of us in every kampong. in every town and also within even undertaking throughout the length and breadth of our country.

MARA, as you know, was set up as a result of the Kongres\* Ekonomi Bumiputra in June. 1965. with the object of helping to raise the standard of living in the rural areas.

Its main objective is to act as an agency to stimulate greater participation by our bumiputra in the commerce and industry of our country; to afford facilities for the training of our bumiputra. so that they may take their rightful place in the progress of our country to act as a stimulus and give advice and help towards the establishment of more and more small industries throughout the rural areas; to give better transport facilities in rural areas by the establishment of bus services, to help and advise bumiputra contractors and bumiputra businessmen through the channel of a MARA Technical Advisory Service, and to sustain a flow of rural credit to those potential bumiputra businessmen who require both loans and technical advice to set them up in their businesses

I am glad to say that since the setting up of MARA last year, considerable progress has been made towards the achievement of our aims. MARA's Transport Service provide transport facilities to all FLDA land schemes and to many new areas which before were without roads and without transport. In fact.

as I speak now, MARA has no less than 375 buses operating in the rural areas covering well over 1,000 miles of road.

In the field of training, MARA has provided no less than 362 scholarships for Bumiputra who are at present deriving the benefits of higher education both in Malaysia and abroad, a type of education which will fit them to take their proper place in all aspects of our national economy, and this Scholarship Programme will increase from year to year.

Also in the field of training, the Maktab MARA in Petaling Jaya has already been enlarged; this year the student population has reached the record number of 556 students.

Plans are under way for this student population to be doubled next year, and on the longer term programme, when the new Maktab MARA is established at Batu Tiga, Klang, the target figure set will be in the region of 3,000 students and special classes for Higher School Certificate students, particularly, in the field of science so that our bumiputra can play their part in this ever increasing modern and scientific world.

In addition to the Maktab MARA, many vocational training programmes are under way. such as for motor mechanics, for the catering and hotel business, for contractors and many other trades and businesses.

*With regard to Credit Finance, this Division of MARA has issued loans up to approximately \$34 million and together with these loans is given advice and technical assistance to help guarantee the greatest possible success amongst bumiputra businessmen who have received such loans.*

Together with these credit facilities. MARA is also providing necessary advice on business management, book keeping and marketing through its Advisory Service. Many experienced officers in this field have been recruited and they will in due course be sent out to carry out their work at various levels in the rural areas.

In the field of Commerce and Industry. MARA is providing places for bumiputra to enter into business in *town areas* through its shop-houses and bazaar construction programme.

MARA is also embarking on a "joint venture system." These joint ventures such as the exploitation of timber in the Jengka Triangle FLDA area, the tannery in Petaling Jaya and a future

Pulp and Paper Mill, are joint ventures of a three cornered nature with the bumiputra combining with local and foreign capital to play their full part in the participation of the major industries of our country. In addition to this. MARA has designed an Investment Programme which will provide a "Unit Trust" to enable bumiputra to purchase shares in the major financial ventures of our country.

Now. I want to make it absolutely clear that MARA in itself cannot help those bumiputra who want to launch out into the world of commerce and industry, unless those who seek assistance from MARA themselves shoulder the responsibility for their own success.

In other words, the function of the various Divisions of MARA is to participate *with* the bumiputra in the form of a joint venture or a partnership, between *you yourselves* on the one hand, and MARA's *advice arid assistance* on the other hand. Because no one. in anything they do in this life, can expect to succeed, except by the fullest application of *energy and hardwork on their awn part.*

Advice and assistance by financial and technical aid from MARA to any individual, *will not* in itself *guarantee success* in his business or industry unless he himself makes an equal *contribution* of hardwork and the determination to succeed.

You will remember the saying "Pechah ruyong sa-belum mendapat sagu-nya".

This fine building with the good ideas, with the good intentions, with the good advice, the availability of loans and the availability of training is only a means to an end! It is not designed for the bumiputra merely to lean on it or to stand in it and watch developments pass-by!

*Both MARA and its building* are designed with one and only one intention; to herald the day in the future when the bumiputra in all walks of life within our economy and nation will stand fairly *and squarely on their own feet*, proud to have done a hard day 's work; proud to have overcome their difficulties and proud to have achieved the success and standard of living which in all our hearts we have the deepest hope and desire to achieve!

Therefore, my main message to all of you today is to get this absolutely clear in your minds and when you go back to your

respective kampongs. spread the same logical *thinking that MARA is yours*. it belongs to the Bumiputra, it is for you if you so wish it, to obtain help in training, setting up businesses, setting up industries, and it is up to you to make the fullest use of the resources which MARA offers you!

*At the same time*, you must continually remember and remind yourselves, that the resources of MARA are *useless to you* without the full application of *your own resources* both mental and physical; and those of you who have the "will to succeed" with the help of MARA, can succeed.

When you come forward as an equal partner with MARA, determined to succeed; then only, you will succeed. After all. Mankind is born, not to fail, but to succeed!\*

## THEY SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

The *only judge* of Development success are the many thousands of projects on the ground *which speak for themselves*: the facts and figures of *increased prosperity* throughout the whole country which is *proof* that with good planning and positive action we, the Alliance Government, have turned our country into a *forward-looking, forward-moving country* from what was, when we took over the Government, *a dead-heat backwater of colonial domination*

Thousands of acres have been made suitable for cultivation through our Drainage and Irrigation works; many miles of roads have been provided for the benefit of our people; health services have been extended to all the corners of the State; education facilities have been improved; grants have been made to the aided schools; and from next year onwards our children will all be assured of nine years of continuous education, instead of six years provided at present.

— *Tun Razak at the laying of foundation stone of S2k million Technical Institute in Penang on April 4. 1964.*