

SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE THE
PRIME MINISTER, DATO HUSSEIN ONN,
AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE ASEAN
BINTULU FERTILIZER SDN. BHD. ON
SATURDAY, 25TH APRIL, 1981, AT
7.30 P.M., AT THE KUALA LUMPUR
REGENT

Yang Berbahagia
Tan Sri Abdullah Mohd. Salleh,
Pengerusi ASEAN Bintulu Fertilizer Sdn. Bhd.,
merangkap Pengerusi PETRONAS;

YB Menteri-Menteri dan
Timbalan-Timbalan Menteri;

Tuan-Tuan Yang Terutama;

Dif-Dif Kehormat;

Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan sekalian,

...2/-

Saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Pengerusi dan Lembaga Pengarah Asean Bintulu Fertilizer Sdn. Bhd. yang telah menjemput saya untuk merasmikan pelancaran Syarikatnya pada malam ini. Majlis ini bukan sahaja menandakan satu lagi kemajuan konkrit ASEAN di dalam usaha kerjasama perindustrian serantau, tetapi juga kemajuan Malaysia di dalam usaha menerokai lapangan industri berat selaras dengan penekanan dan strategi perindustrian kita. Pada frari ini, kita berkumpul di majlis pelancaran Asean Bintulu

Fertilizer Sdn. Bhd. sebagai hasil keyakinan dan usaha semua pihak, ke arah kerjasama ekonomi yang lebih bermakna.

...4/-

Ladies and Gentlemen.

2. It gives me great pleasure to be invited to launch the Asean Bintulu Fertilizer Sdn. Bhd., the Company which will implement Malaysia's ASEAN Urea Project. The launching of this project is yet another major step forward, not only in ASEAN industrial development, but more important, in meeting ASEAN's overall objectives.

...5/-

3. Although this project is the first of its kind in Malaysia, it is the second for ASEAN.

The first, the Indonesian Asean Urea Project, was launched in April, 1979. Both projects symbolise, in concrete form, ASEAN's firm commitment to economic cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

4. We, in ASEAN, firmly believe in regional cooperation. We believe that it is a means of achieving greater prosperity and stability for our region. It is with this belief that we have

nurtured ASEAN. We have laid a strong foundation and framework of cooperation in various fields.

We have taken common stand on many issues, be it politics, economics or social.

5. Looking at our success so far, we are confident that with determination and commitment, we will achieve our aims. Today, we see not only cooperation among the leaders and officials, but also cooperation at the non-governmental level, through professional and private bodies and groupings. Our cooperative efforts are gathering momentum. We are seeing new projects being implemented and common activities widening.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

6. Today we see a world divided not only ideologically and politically, but also economically and socially. Politically, we witness instability and frictions in various parts of the world. Economically, we witness the struggle of developing countries for an equitable share in the international economic system. Protectionism, trade barriers and the inequitable terms of trade are hindering the emergence of a new international economic order.
7. Under the circumstances, I am more than ever convinced that it is desirable for the developing countries to work together in the framework of

regional cooperation. For us, we have ASEAN.

The member countries of ASEAN share a community of interests and basic ideals. We must continue to explore areas of cooperation for our mutual benefits and well-being. We must make ASEAN a success.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

8. ASEAN, as a whole, is a heavily populated region with a high rate of population growth. It is basically an agricultural region. Increased productivity of the agricultural sector will no doubt

contribute to increasing the income and well-being of ASEAN's farming community. The development of the agricultural sector will help ASEAN in meeting the food requirements of its growing population. It is in this context that the ASEAN Urea projects are of great importance to the socio-economic development of the region and its people.

9. Japan has played an important role in the development of ASEAN industrial projects. The concrete support given by Japan to ASEAN industrial programme is a positive and far-sighted gesture.

ASEAN industrial programme opens a new avenue for the participation of the industrialised nations in ASEAN industrial development. Such collaboration will be mutually beneficial.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

10. The Asean Bintulu Fertilizer project is of special significance to Malaysia. As I have said when launching the Fourth Malaysia Plan, we must strive to optimise the utilisation of our scarce natural resources. We must use these scarce

resources with prudence and care to ensure greater benefits to the country and our people.

II. Petroleum and gas are two of such resources.

It is our policy to promote the development of resource-based industries so as to maximize the returns to our economy. We have a programme to process the petroleum and gas resources internally. The Asean Bintulu Fertilizer project is an important aspect of this programme.

12. I understand that the main contract for the setting up of the fertilizer plant will be awarded by January 1982. The plant is expected to begin operation by 1985. When in full production the plant is expected to produce about 1,000 metric tonnes of ammonia and 1,500 metric tonnes of urea per day. It is hoped that the plant, together with its Indonesian counterpart, will provide sufficient nitrogenous fertilizers to meet ASEAN's requirements.

would like to

13. I /take this opportunity to congratulate
PETRONAS and its partners, namely.-

(a) The Ministry of Finance, Republic
of Indonesia;

(b) The Ministry of Finance, Thailand;

(c) The National Development Corporation
of the Philippines-; and

(d) Temasek Holdings, Singapore,

for their efforts in making the establishment of
the Asean Bintulu Fertilizer Sdn. Bhd. a reality.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I now have great pleasure in launching

the Asean Bintulu Fertilizer Sdn. Bhd.,



No. Siri	518
No. Penerimaan	122/81