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UCAPAN Y.A.B. DATUK HUSSEIN ONN, TIMBALAN PERDANA MENTERI MERANGKAP MENTERI KEWANGAN MERESMIKAN MESYUARAT AGUNG TAHUNAN KESATUAN PEGAWAI-PEGAWAI HASIL DALAM NEGERI SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA DI PENTHOUSE, BANGUNAN MABA, JALAN DAVIDSON, KUALA LUMPUR, PADA HARI AHAD, 15HB DISEMBER, 1974, JAM 9.30 PAGI.

Encik Narendran, Presiden Kesatuan Pegawai
Pegawai Hasil Dalam Negeri,

Encik Sundaram, Ketua Pengarah, Jabatan
Hasil Dalam Negeri,

Saudara-saudara sekelian.

Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan adalah seperkara yang dimestikan bagi tiap-tiap Kesatuan Sekerja dan bagi Kesatuan ini tentulah tidak terkecuali. Oleh itu, saya merasa sukacita ~~untuk~~ dapat hadir dalam mesyuarat ini, lebih-lebih lagi untuk bertemu dengan saudara-saudara sekelian, pegawai dalam Jabatan ini yang saya dan Kerajaan menganggap sebagai satu kumpulan yang penting iaitu alat menjamin perjalanan jentera Kerajaan. Demikian juga, saya menganggap penting mesyuarat

saudara pagi ini kerana dapat pula saya peluang menyampaikan pesanan sebagai panduan di masa depan.

Saudara-saudara sekelian.

2. Pegawai-pegawai dalam Jabatan ini merupakan gulungan yang jarang sekali mendapat perhatian — saya maksudkan dari segi sosial. Saudara kurang mendapat pujian kerana tugas saudara ialah untuk mendapatkan wang sebanyak-banyaknya dari pembayar-pembayar cukai. Oleh itu, saudara-saudara sentiasa menghadapi berbagai ujian, terutama sekali dari gulungan yang liat atau enggan membayar cukai. Tetapi, percayalah bahawa saudara-saudara mendapat penghargaan tinggi dari Kerajaan kerana, dedikasi tanpa/

dan tugas saudara untuk mengumpulkan wang ~~untuk~~ perbendaharaan negara, pastilah kita tidak dapat mencapai kemajuan serta menikmati taraf hidup yang agak tinggi ini. Oleh itu, dalam menilai tugas-tugas saudara di masa lepas, saya inginlah memberikan terimakasih dan penghargaan Kerajaan terhadap saudara, dan sekelian pekerja dalam Jabatan ini yang telah memberikan khidmat dan jasa yang sangat berharga itu.

3. Dalam pada itu, saya ingin juga mengingatkan saudara sekelian bahawa kita menghadapi tugas yang lebih besar. Kita menghadapi masaalah stagflasi yang mengancam kedudukan ekonomi negara dan penghidupan rakyat kita. Kita menghadapi keadaan di mana ada golongan yang tidak faham atau sengaja

crisis, shortages of many other commodities, turbulence on the world monetary markets and a ~~renewed surge~~ of inflation in industrialised, as well as developing nations. In a period where the growth of the world economy will undoubtedly be affected adversely by higher energy costs, it is ~~even~~ more important that we have the stimulation to growth and that we chart a course of action ~~structured around~~ greater co-operative and productive efforts by all sections of our community. We have to evolve programmes, which we believe, are essential to meet both the immediate and the long-term challenges of the situation.

5. In meeting the challenges of ~~the situation~~, the efficient functioning of the public service

tidak memahami akan tindakan Kerajaan. Kita menghadapi masaalah dimana rakyat mengharapkan Kerajaan menjalankan usaha kemajuan sebanyak-banyaknya dan dengan secepat-cepatnya. Tetapi kemampuan kita adalah terbatas. Oleh itu, saya mengajak saudara-saudara untuk bersama-sama menghadapi tugas ini, khasnya pada mengumpulkan jumlah wang yang lebih banyak untuk Kerajaan bagi membolehkannya menjalankan kerja-kerja dengan mudah dan lebih berkesan. Tugas ini adalah ~~terserah~~ diamanahkan kepada saudara dan atas kebijaksanaan pimpinan dalam Jabatan ini. Oleh itu khidmat yang lebih-lebih berkesan, kerja-kerja yang didikasi sangat-sangat diharapkan dari saudara-saudara. semua

4. We have seen remarkable and often unsettling developments in the international economic scene in the last two years; the energy

done well. As against the estimate revenue of $860 million dollars for 1974, I am happy to note that, by the end of the year, the total revenue that would be collected by way of Income Tax would be $1,300 million. The estimated revenue from income tax for 1975 is $1,256 million.

7. The back duty recovered this year is nearly $40 million as against $18 million recovered in 1973. ~~Against this~~ success, it is the urgent duty of the Department and you the staff to seek out and to counter evasion wherever it is thought or known to exist. Though tax evasion has not reached a ~~critical~~ stage in our country, it nevertheless is increasing and it is necessary to ensure that recovery of back duty is dealt with adequately and expeditiously. Perhaps it is morally wrong to ask the honest tax payers to continue paying more while the tax dodgers

is of paramount importance. An efficient cadre of public servants and an effective administrative organisation is the means for ~~the~~ achievement of national objectives. As members of a very important section of our administrative organisation, and the second largest revenue earning department, you have a crucial role to play, in particular, at this stage of our development.

6. Some of the areas of the plan to restrain inflation, and to do this speedily, is the programme relating to problems of direct and indirect taxation and to the ways and means of collecting "~~real~~" taxes. I am glad to note that despite the fact that there has been shortage of staff over the past few years, due to difficulties in recruitment and in retaining trained staff, I must say you have

We must make most of our capacity and resources. Every effort is being made to strengthen the staff and train them, if necessary, by way of crash programmes, to equip the Department to tackle with determination, the tax dodgers. We have no alternative.

9. The central problem facing the Department is the shortage of technical staff. Every effort will be made to improve this position. As Minister, it is my duty to look into the organisational structure to make the organisation more efficient and effective to meet the complexities involved in the administration of the Income Tax Legislation and the exacting nature of its work.

Saudara-saudara.

10. ~~Glancing~~ Looking at the activities of your Union, I wish to congratulate you for the

get away free. Besides, at this period when the Government is attempting to evolve a comprehensive economic policy and programme with the active co-operation of every element and section in equitably carrying the burden of stabilizing the nation's economy, those who evade taxes pose a serious problem and their act can undermine our efforts. It is against these dishonest people that we must direct our attention.

8. An endeavour must be made to adjust the balance of public attitude towards tax evasion. It must be seen as at least a serious a sin to make a false tax return as it is to commit serious crimes. Tax evaders must be seen as offenders in a criminal sense as pick-pockets or house-breakers are.

responsible leadership and for the interest taken by the members, in matters involving, not only the "bread and butter" issues, but also in such matters as training, efficiency and productivity of officers at all levels. I am particularly impressed with the efforts taken by the Union to publish a regular Tax Journal. This ~~in itself~~ is a very commendable effort. Such income tax literature should play an important role in diseminating knowledge on tax legislation, not only to those in the service but [also] ~~to many outsiders, myself inclu~~ded [to members of the public]. Your principal aim, therefore, must be to promote a deeper understanding of the economic and social implications of the existing taxes and different fiscal systems around us. Tax Journals of the kind published by your Union will, I am sure, meet this need.

11. I observe from your 23rd Annual Report that the members are not happy over the pay and structure of the service. Your Director-General and your President have enlightened me on the subject. I am told that in the Report of Suffian Commission, no specific recommendations on changes in pay were made for the income tax Department, as the Commission was given to understand that a reorganisation exercise of the Department was then being carried out.

12. You are no doubt aware that Government has ~~decided to~~ set up a new Commission to review and co-ordinate the recommendations of the previous Commissions. However, the claims you have made will, I am sure, be examined by the Authorities concerned, in the

light of Government decision on the kind of review to be made. Your interest and welfare is of concern to me and I shall do whatever possible, within the framework of Government's decision on the question of pay adjustments for the Civil Service.

Saudara-saudara.

13. Sebagai Menteri Kewangan, adalah menjadi tugas saya untuk memberikan pimpinan kepada Kementerian ini untuk menyempurnakan tanggung-jawabnya sesuai dengan kehendak negara. Oleh itu, saya mengharapkan kerjasama dari semua peringkat pegawai supaya tugas yang berat dan besar ini dapat sama-sama kita pikul dengan kesedaran bahawa rakyat mengharapkan dari kita kemajuan yang boleh dinikmati oleh mereka.

14. Akhir kata, saya sekali lagi menyatakan gembira kerana dapat bertemu dengan saudara-saudara sekelian dalam suasana yang selesa dan mengharapkan supaya Kesatuan Sekerja dalam negara kita ini akan sentiasa memahami akan cita-cita Kerajaan, sedar akan tanggungjawab dan masaalah Kerajaan, khasnya dalam zaman stagflasi ini. Sebaliknya, Kerajaan adalah sentiasa memelihara kepentingan dan kebajikan kaum pekerja.

15. Oleh itu, Kerajaan mengharapkan sebarang tindakan yang tidak bertanggungjawab hendaklah dielakkan kerana perkara itu boleh mendatangkan kesan buruk terhadap ekonomi, keselamatan dan ketenteraman awam. Lebih-lebih lagi dalam keadaan sekarang, kedua-dua gulungan -- Kerajaan dan majikan serta kaum pekerja hendaklah sentiasa memelihara keyakinan

dan kepercayaan antara satu sama lain. Dalam konteks ini, saya menyeru saudara-saudara serta semua Kesatuan Sekerja supaya bertenang, bersikap jujur dan dedikasi demi menjaga kepentingan negara. Kita mempunyai tanggungjawab masing-masing.

15. Dengan ingatan dan harapan yang ikhlas ini, saya dengan sukacitanya meresmikan Mesyuarat Agung Tahunan ke-23 Kesatuan Pegawai-Pegawai Hasil Dalam Negeri Semenanjung Malaysia dan semoga ia berjaya.

Terima kasih.

PERKHIDMATAN ARKIB PERDANA MENTERI ★ MALAYSIA ★
AHO/u

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