

Speech by the Hon'ble Minister of Education,  
Enche Hussein Onn, during the opening ceremony  
of the Expo Pendidikan '72 by His Majesty the  
Yang di-Pertuan Agong at Stadium Negara,  
Kuala Lumpur on August 7, 1972 at 9.30 a.m.

Your Majesties,

1. The Ministry of Education is greatly honoured by Your Majesty's and Her Majesty's gracious presence at the opening of the Education Expo '72 this morning. The Ministry is further honoured by Your Majesty graciously consenting to declare open the Expo. Knowing how greatly interested Your Majesty and Her Majesty are in the affairs and development of the country, especially in the field of education, we are confident that Your Majesty will find the Expo, not only interesting and stimulating, but also challenging. The Expo is the culmination of the various education exhibitions held at district and state level. Much thought, toil and sweat have gone into its planning and preparation. Every one of us, that is, those in the Ministry of Education, States Education Departments, Teachers Training Colleges, Universities, Institutes and schools are proud to show it to the nation. We are proud to let it be known that over the years since our country's independence, our country and nation have made a tremendous advance and progress in the field of education. Every aspect of education will be shown at this Expo ----- its history before and after independence; primary education, secondary education, college education, university education, science education, technical education, vocational education and religious education. All these are shown in a tangible and easy-to-understand form.

2. Your Majesty, permit me now to say a few words to the distinguished gathering.

The Hon'ble Tun Deputy Prime Minister and Toh Puan Norashikin, Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, Honourable Menteri2 Besar and Chief Ministers, Tan2 Sri and Puan2 Sri, Dato2 and Datin2, Ladies and Gentlemen.

National unity is the over-riding objective of our country. Indeed, on it depends the peace, stability and prosperity of our country. Our country has reached a stage in its development where predominant emphasis must be placed on social integration and more equitable distribution of income and opportunities for national unity and progress. The obvious place to begin sowing these noble seeds is in the school and through education. Our education system, therefore, aims not only at imparting knowledge -----  
<sup>precious</sup>gracious though knowledge is ----- but also equally  
<sup>precious</sup>gracious, in nurturing and instilling in the mind of our children their bounden duty to love and to be loyal to their country.

3. There are at present about two and a half million children and students in schools, colleges and universities. There are over 5,000 schools spread all over the country, in towns as well as in the most remote areas. There are about 63,000 teachers. The total number of undergraduates in our universities alone is about 11,000, and there are thousands more in universities and other educational institutions overseas. Over the years, we have been spending about 5% of our GNP on education; on the average about 22% of our annual national operating expenditure, and under the Second Malaysia Plan, 7.3% of the total development expenditure. These figures are impressive by any standards, especially for a small and developing country like Malaysia.


4. In spite of all these achievements and progress, we are not complacent, for complacency inevitably results in decline and decay. We will go on striving, not only for more educational facilities and opportunities for our children, but also for better quality of education. We believe that only the best education is good enough for our children. The road, no doubt, will be long and hard. Nevertheless, we are determined to take it. We have faith in the versatility and dynamism of our people. Where there is faith, there is hope, and where there is dynamism, there will be progress.
5. The theme of the Expo is "PROGRESS THROUGH EDUCATION". PROGRESS THROUGH EDUCATION demands the total national effort and support because everything else is built on the foundation laid in our institutions of learning. The Ministry of Education sows the seeds but the nation reaps the harvests.
6. The whole of this Expo is a monument to the versatility of our educational system. From start to finish, it is the work of pupils, teachers, lecturers and Ministry officials. All the woodwork, the electrical installations and the construction of the Foyer Display is the work of the staff and students of the Technical Teachers Training College and Specialist Teachers Training Institute, Cheras. To them, I will like to express my great appreciation and sincere thanks. The whole layout and planning of the display inside the stadium has been skilfully and carefully done by Enche Yeoh Jin Leng of the Specialist Teachers Training College, Cheras. To him, I will like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks. The foyer display is designed by Tuan Syed Ahmad Jamal, who is an artist and who is also from the Specialist Teachers Training Institute. I wish to thank him for the thoughts and efforts he has put in in designing the foyer display.

7. I will like to mention also the teachers from Selangor, Perak and Negri Sembilan who have given us valuable assistance in the preparation and production of the various charts. The work involved is very detailed and delicate and requires infinite patience. To Enche D.S. David goes the honour of suggesting and persuading me to hold this Expo, which is the first of its kind ever held by the Ministry of Education. This Expo will not be possible without the co-operation, assistance and hard work of countless others, such as the schools, colleges, universities, students, teachers, lecturers, staff from the Public Works Department, the National Electricity Board, the Telecommunications Department, the Police, the Ministry of Information, Radio and Talivishen Malaysia, the Press, the Selangor Information Department, the donors of funds and materials, the States Education Departments, Education Ministry officials and members of the National Expo Committee and other committees. To all of them, I wish to express my sincere thanks.

8. Your Majesty, may I say once again how greatly honoured the Ministry of Education is by Your Majesty's and Her Majesty's gracious presence with us this morning. Now I humbly invite Your Majesty to formally declare this Expo open.

KUALA LUMPUR,  
7hb Ogos, 1972.

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