

ADDRESS OF INCHE HUSSEIN ONN,
MINISTER OF EDUCATION, AT THE
INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL,
AT THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA,
ON 8TH AUGUST, 1972 AT 11.30 A.M.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL.

1. MAY I, FIRST OF ALL, THANK YOU
FOR ACCEPTING MY INVITATION TO BE MEMBERS OF THE
COUNCIL. I FULLY REALISE HOW VERY BUSY YOU ALL
ARE WITH YOUR OWN WORK. YOUR ACCEPTANCE, THEREFORE,
IS ALL THE MORE APPRECIATED AS IT INDICATES YOUR
HIGH SENSE OF DUTY AND SACRIFICE IN THE NATIONAL
INTEREST.

2. THE RESUSCITATION OF THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN FAVOURABLY RECEIVED BY THE PUBLIC. THIS REFLECTS ITS GREAT CONCERN AND INTEREST IN THE WELFARE, PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR UNIVERSITIES. AS THE MINISTER WHO IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, I NATURALLY NEED ADVICE FROM AN INDEPENDENT BODY, SUCH AS THIS COUNCIL, IN THE DISCHARGE OF MY DUTY. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME NOT TO FEEL ANXIOUS WHEN AN ERROR OF JUDGMENT ON MY PART MAY DO HARM TO THE COUNTRY AND BRING MISERY TO THOUSANDS. AT THE PRESENT STAGE OF OUR COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT, THE NATIONAL REQUIREMENT OF QUALIFIED AND SKILLED MANPOWER IN SPECIFIED FIELDS MUST BE GIVEN PRIORITY BY THE UNIVERSITIES. THE GOVERNMENT, THEREFORE, MUST RETAIN ITS FREEDOM OF MAKING THE FINAL DECISION.

...3

3. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE WHICH I HAVE GIVEN TO THE COUNCIL IS WIDE. THEY REFER NOT ONLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING UNIVERSITIES, BUT ALSO TO ARRANGEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW UNIVERSITIES. OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING TO HIGHER EDUCATION MAY ALSO BE REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL.

4. THE COUNCIL IS PURPOSELY MADE AN ADVISORY BODY. THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT AT THE PRESENT STAGE OF OUR COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT, THE NATIONAL REQUIREMENT OF QUALIFIED AND SKILLED MANPOWER IN SPECIFIED FIELDS MUST BE GIVEN PRIORITY BY THE UNIVERSITIES. THE GOVERNMENT, THEREFORE, MUST RETAIN ITS FREEDOM OF MAKING THE FINAL DECISION.

5. REALISING THAT THE COUNCIL WILL BE UNABLE TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY WITHOUT FULL INFORMATION, DATA AND FACTS, A FULL TIME SECRETARIAT IS BEING ESTABLISHED TO SERVE IT. THE DETAILS ARE BEING WORKED OUT BETWEEN YOUR CHAIRMAN AND THE MINISTRY. THE MINISTRY WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO ASSIST THE COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVELY, FINANCIALLY, ETC.

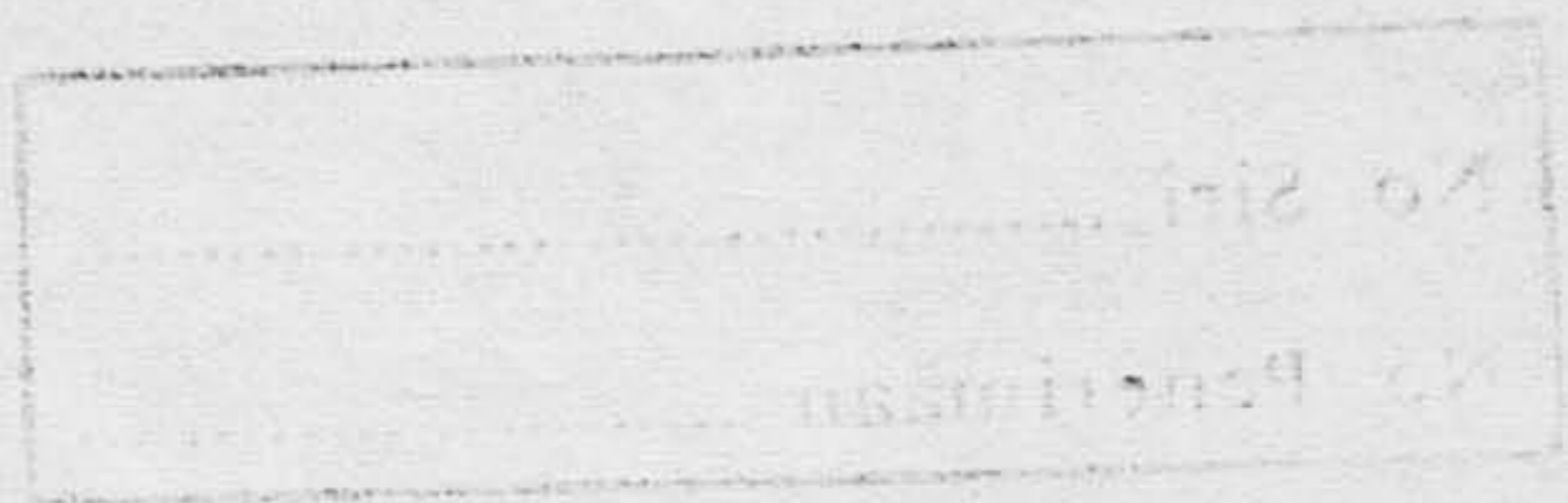
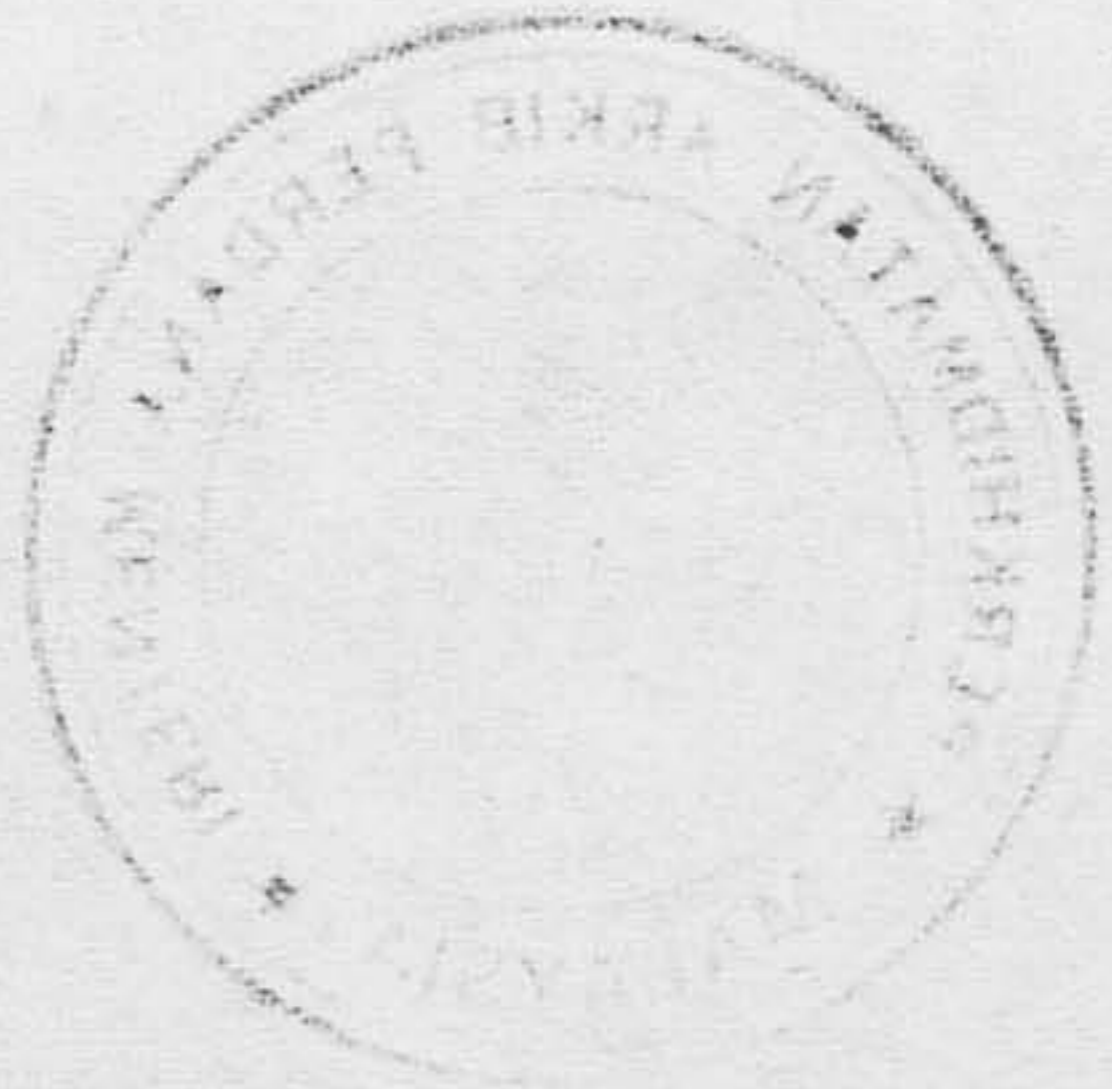
6. I APOLOGISE THAT DUE TO AN OVERSIGHT, NO WOMAN HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO SIT ON THE COUNCIL. THE OMISSION WILL BE RECTIFIED. THE NUMBER AND NAMES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN ABOUT A WEEK'S TIME.

7. AS YOU KNOW, IN 1962 THE GOVERNMENT SET UP A HIGHER EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE SUBMITTED ITS REPORT IN 1967. IT COLLECTED A LOT OF INFORMATION AND DATA WHICH BEFORE THEN WERE NOT READILY AVAILABLE. IT ALSO MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS. THE COMMITTEE STATED THAT FOR VARIOUS REASONS, SOME OF ITS CONCLUSIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE TENTATIVE AND RECOMMENDED THAT THEY BE REVIEWED AT A LATER DATE. I SUGGEST THAT THIS COUNCIL, AS A START, SHOULD STUDY THE REPORT AND REVIEW THE CONCLUSIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. AT THE SAME ^{time} IT CAN COMPLEMENT ITS REVIEW OF THE REPORT BY LOOKING INTO THE CURRENT COURSES OF STUDY, FACULTY ENROLMENT ETC IN OUR UNIVERSITIES IN THE LIGHT OF OUR COUNTRY'S MAN-POWER REQUIREMENTS.

I MAY ALSO MENTION FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL THAT MR. EDDY LEE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA HAS WRITTEN A BOOK COMMENTING ON THE HIGHER EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT.

8. LASTLY, I LOOK FORWARD TO A CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNCIL. IN TAN SRI JUSTICE SUFFIAN, YOU HAVE A CHAIRMAN WHO IS RESPECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC. HE IS, IF I MAY RESPECTFULLY SAY SO, GREATLY INTERESTED IN EDUCATION AS HE IS INTERESTED AND LEARNED IN THE LAW. FURTHER, HE HAS A LOT OF EXPERIENCE IN UNIVERSITY MATTERS. MAY I ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE GREAT HONOUR WHICH THE UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE HAS

RECENTLY BESTOWED UPON HIM. I HAVE GREAT FAITH IN THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL SHOULDER YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.



RECENTLY BESTOWED UPON HIM. I HAVE GREAT
FAITH IN THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND I AM
SURE THAT YOU WILL SHOULD YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.



No. Siri	126
No Penerimaan	126/80