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Speech by Y.B. Encik Hussein Onn, Minister of Education, at the handing ceremony of the Instrument of Government of Tunku Abdul Rahman College, at Dewan Bahasa & Pustaka on Friday 15th. September, 1972 at 10.00 am.

1. I wish to thank the authorities of Tunku Abdul Rahman College for inviting me to the ceremony this morning and giving me the opportunity of handing the College's Instrument of Government. In addition to the guests and members of the staff of the College, we have here with us Y.A.B. Tun Tan Siew Sin who is President of the College, members of the working Team, members of the Interim Council, members of the new Board of Governors of the College and representatives of the students.
2. It is the duty of the Government to provide education for our children irrespective of their racial origin, while the children of one community for certain reasons may require special assistance and help, it will be unacceptable to reasonable and fairminded people to deprive or restrict education from the children of the other communities. Education to whomsoever it is given will, without doubt, be of benefit to our country and our nation.
3. It is sad that Tunku Abdul Rahman College has been made a political issue by some groups. It is sadder still that it has been exploited to arouse racial feelings. While responsible people are striving hard to create and achieve unity, there are, unfortunately, among us and among some groups, who are striving equally hard to disrupt unity and create disunity and chaos.
4. The Government's commitment to the establishment of Tunku Abdul Rahman College was made clear by my statement in the Dewan Raayat on the 22nd. August. I also mentioned that by virtue of the Instrument of Government, the Government had sufficient control over the management and running of the College to ensure its conformity with the national education policy and the national interest.
5. The Instrument of Government of the College which in a moment I shall be handing to Y.A.B. Tun Tan Siew Sin, is the result of months of negotiation and patient work between the authorities of the College and the Ministry of Education. Indeed I may add that during the negotiation, it had never been suggested by the authorities of the College that the College should be outside the ambit of our national education policy or the Education Act 1961. The late Tan Sri Khaw Kai Boh even suggested that the Government should fully take over the College.

6. As things stand at present, it has been agreed that the Government will be responsible for half of the capital costs and half of the annual operating expenses, the other half of the capital costs and the annual operating expenses will be borne by the trustees of the College. To date, the Government has given to the College as an advance the sum of \$711,068 based on the actual expenditure for the years 1968, 1969, and 1970. Up to now, the College has not even got a site or a building of its own. For teaching purposes, the Ministry of Education has allowed it to use the Technical Teachers Training College, Cheras, the Day Training Centre, Jalan Kuantan, the Technical Institute, Cheras, the Cheras Secondary School and the Catholic High School, Petaling Jaya.

7. Under the Instrument of Government, effective from yesterday, there are five representatives of the Minister of Education and one representative of the Minister of Finance on the Board of Governors of the College. The representatives of the Minister of Education are:

- (i) The Secretary General of the Ministry or his representative.
- (ii) The Director General of Education or his representative.
- (iii) The Director of the Schools Division or his representative.
- (iv) Encik R.Vivekananda, Ministry of Education.
- (v) Secretary of the Finance Division or his representative.

The representative of the Minister of Finance is Encik Wong Yoke Meng. In addition there are seven members appointed by the Trustees of the College. They are:

- (i) Encik Lew Sip Hon.
- (ii) Professor Lim Keng.
- (iii) Professor Chin Fung Kee.
- (iv) Tan Sri Sheikh Abdullah bin Sheikh Abu Bakar.
- (v) Dr. New Yee Pan.
- (vi) Dr. Teh Hock Heng.
- (vii) Encik Ang Eng Hock.

The other members are the Principal of the College and one Head of School. The total number of members of the Board of Governors is fifteen.

8. The Minister of Education is also represented on the Finance Committee of the College. He is the Secretary of the Finance Division of the Ministry or his representative. The Minister of Education also has a representative on the Courses of Studies Committee. He is the Director of the Examination Syndicate or his representative.

9. Thus, the Government is satisfied that it is sufficiently represented and has sufficient control over the management and running of the College. Further under the Instrument of Government, the College is required to submit each year to the Minister of Education an estimate of income and expenditure and the audited accounts. The auditors are those to be approved by the Minister. In addition,

the college is required to submit to the Minister an annual progress report on academic matters and such other reports as may be required by the Minister.

10. The Instrument of Government also provides that, subject to Article 153 of the Federal Constitution, membership of the College, whether as a member of the Board of Governors or Committee, an officer, teacher or student, shall be open to all persons irrespective of sex, race, religion, nationality or class. Lastly, the Instrument provides that the College is to be managed in accordance with the Education Act, 1961 and the rules and regulations made and directions given thereunder.

11. Thus, it can be seen that ample safeguards have been made and that there should, therefore, be no justifiable reasons or excuses for continued agitation or criticisms against the College. Let us be farsighted and reasonable in our attitude. Let us be magnanimous in what we say and do. It is up to us to make or break our country and our nation. Y.A.B. Tun Tan Siew Sin, I have great pleasure in handing to you the Instrument of Government of Tunku Abdul Rahman College. May God guide those into whose hands are entrusted the destiny and the wellbeing of the College.



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