

# siaran akhbar

PERKHIDMATAN  
ARKIB PERDANA MENTERI

diterbitkan oleh jabatan penerangan malaysia

PEN. 8/76/180 (PM)

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2.10 petang pada 31hb Ogos, 1976.

SPEECH BY YAB PERDANA MENTERI, DATUK HUSSEIN  
ONN, OVER SUARA MALAYSIA ON MERDEKA DAY  
ANNIVERSARY, AUGUST 31, 1976

Fellow Malaysians and Friends,

Today, the 31st of August, is our country's National Day. I am taking the opportunity, the first since I became Prime Minister, to convey to you who are overseas our greetings and sincere best wishes.

This is our 19th National Day. Our country has gone a long way since her independence nineteen years ago. It has been a great challenge to us all. We have charted and guided our nation's destiny well. Our country has progressed and developed beyond our expectations. This has been brought about by the toil, tears and sweat of our people.

This Government, like those before it, is committed to the cause of bringing to reality the goals and aspirations of all Malaysians for unity, peace and progress. It is also committed to the task of creating a united, secure, socially just and progressive nation. It is to fulfil these commitments that the new Economic Policy is adopted. The policy has been accepted by an overwhelming majority of the people. We believe that it is the correct policy if national unity is ever to be achieved.

In July, we launched the Third Malaysia Plan. It is the second phase in the implementation of the New Economic Policy. I suggest that those of you who have not yet read it, should do so now. It will also help some idea of what we are doing at home; it will also help you to clear any misunderstanding, doubt or fear that you may have with regard to the government's policies, intentions and actions.

Poverty is a major cause of social discontent in all countries. It exists in both urban and rural areas, and afflicts all racial groups. Since poverty can disrupt national unity, the eradication of poverty, irrespective of race, constitutes an important objective of the new Economic Policy. The objectives of social justice underlying the new Economic Policy cannot be viewed independently of growth objectives. What is sought is re-distribution in the context of rapid growth so that no particular group experiences any loss of feels any sense of deprivation in the process.

Under the Third Malaysia Plan, we seek to :-

- (a) Create 743,000 new job opportunities and thus reduce the rate of unemployment from 7% in 1975 to 6.1% in 1980;
- (c) Reduce the incidence of poverty from 44% in 1975 to 34% in 1980 -- from 54% to 43% in the rural areas, and from 19% to 16% in the urban areas.
- (c) Increase the employment of Malays and other indigenous people in the modern sectors of the economy, in particular the manufacturing sector;
- (d) Promote the absorption and participation of other Malaysians in sectors in which they are now under-represented, in particular modern agriculture and the services sectors;
- (c) Increase the share of the Malays and other indigenous people in the ownership of share capital in the corporate sector.

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Let me emphasise that the Plan is intended to benefit all segments of our society. It is a Plan for the people. It is not intended to benefit only one group or one section of society. The poverty redressal programmes will benefit the poor of all races. Similarly, the restructuring of society programmes have been formulated to bring about simultaneous and progressive improvement in the socio-economic position of all communities in those sectors where they are currently under represented. Let us fully understand the process we have to undergo to attain national unity. We are a nation in transition. We have embarked upon a strategy for transforming our society, the ramifications of which extend beyond the narrow bounds of socio-economic planning. We are actively promoting national integration and the attainment of a just society in which there is a place for everyone, within a socio-economic environment, in which all Malaysians find self-fulfilment and self-respect.

The Plan aims at a 50% increase in the size of the economy in real terms by 1980. The Gross Domestic Product is targetted to expand by 8.5% per annum compared with 7.4% under the Second Malaysia Plan, and about 6% in the sixties. The resources to be generated by this growth will be substantial. Indeed, they provide us with the basis for mounting this Plan, the largest and most ambitious programmes for investment both in the public and private sectors of the country. It involves a total expenditure for investment purposes of over 44.2 billion Malaysian dollars. Out of this amount, public investment will amount to 17.4 billion Malaysian dollars, while private investment is targetted at 26.8 billion Malaysian dollars. Taking account of some expenditures in the private sector which will be financed by the Government itself, the largest for development expenditure by the public sector is 18.6 billion Malaysian dollars.

I have touched very briefly on some aspects of the Third Malaysia Plan. I hope that it has given you some idea of our goals and aspirations. At the same time, I hope that it has also given you some indication of the magnitude of the tasks and challenges ahead of us. We accept them and will do our best. What about you who are overseas? Will you do your part?

I am aware that you are concerned about the security situation in the country. As I have often said, it is serious in the sense that we cannot afford to treat it otherwise. The people must be awakened to the danger and not be complacent. However, as I have also often said, it is completely under control. It is true that there has been an increase in the number of incidents, but most of them have very little significance in the overall security situation. The recurrence of militant communism and subversion by anti-national elements of course poses a major challenge to our democratic way of life and the timely achievement of national goals. The Third Malaysia Plan manifests the commitment of the Government to ensure national security, the active participation of the people in the Plan for nation building, provides the essential assurance that these threats will be overcome. Our principal strength lies in the fact that this war against enemies of the nation is a people's war.

I would like now to touch briefly on our foreign policy. Malaysia is pursuing an independent and non-aligned policy. She upholds and fully adheres to the principles of the United Nations. We strongly believe in the rights of people to determine their own political system and destiny. We believe that nations should work together, as we are doing in ASEAN, for the betterment of all concerned. We extend our hands of friendship to all nations on the principles of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Malaysia has proposed the establishment of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in Southeast Asia, now more known as the Kuala Lumpur Declaration. Our proposal has been supported by the member countries of ASEAN, by many countries of the Commonwealth and also by the Islamic Conference. The proposal was also supported by the non-aligned countries at its summit meeting in Algiers in 1973. However, at the recent summit meeting of the non-aligned countries in Sri Lanka, Laos supported by Vietnam objected to the inclusion of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration in the Political Declaration to be approved by the Conference, although the same conference in 1973 had supported and approved the

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Kuala Lumpur Declaration. This is most regrettable. It shows that Laos and Vietnam lack understanding, if not sincerity. However, Malaysia will continue to pursue the matter towards its realisation. As long as there are poor and rich nations, as long as there are oppressed peoples, as long as the strong seek to impose their will on the weak -- so will there be no peace in **this** world. Malaysia will continue to play her part towards the achievement of world peace, harmony and justice.

I am aware that most of you are exposed to all sorts of rumours, irresponsible talks and vicious propaganda about conditions in Malaysia. Don't easily be misled by them; make an effort to verify them yourselves.

In conclusion, may I once again convey to you all our greetings and sincere best wishes on this auspicious day. To our students we look forward to your home coming fully qualified academically, rich in experience and wise in judgement to take your rightful place in the affairs of our country. To our friends abroad, we hope that the bonds of friendship between our countries will be strengthened further.

KUALA LUMPUR,  
31hb Ogos, 1976.

(dikeluarkan pada pukul 1.00 t/hari)

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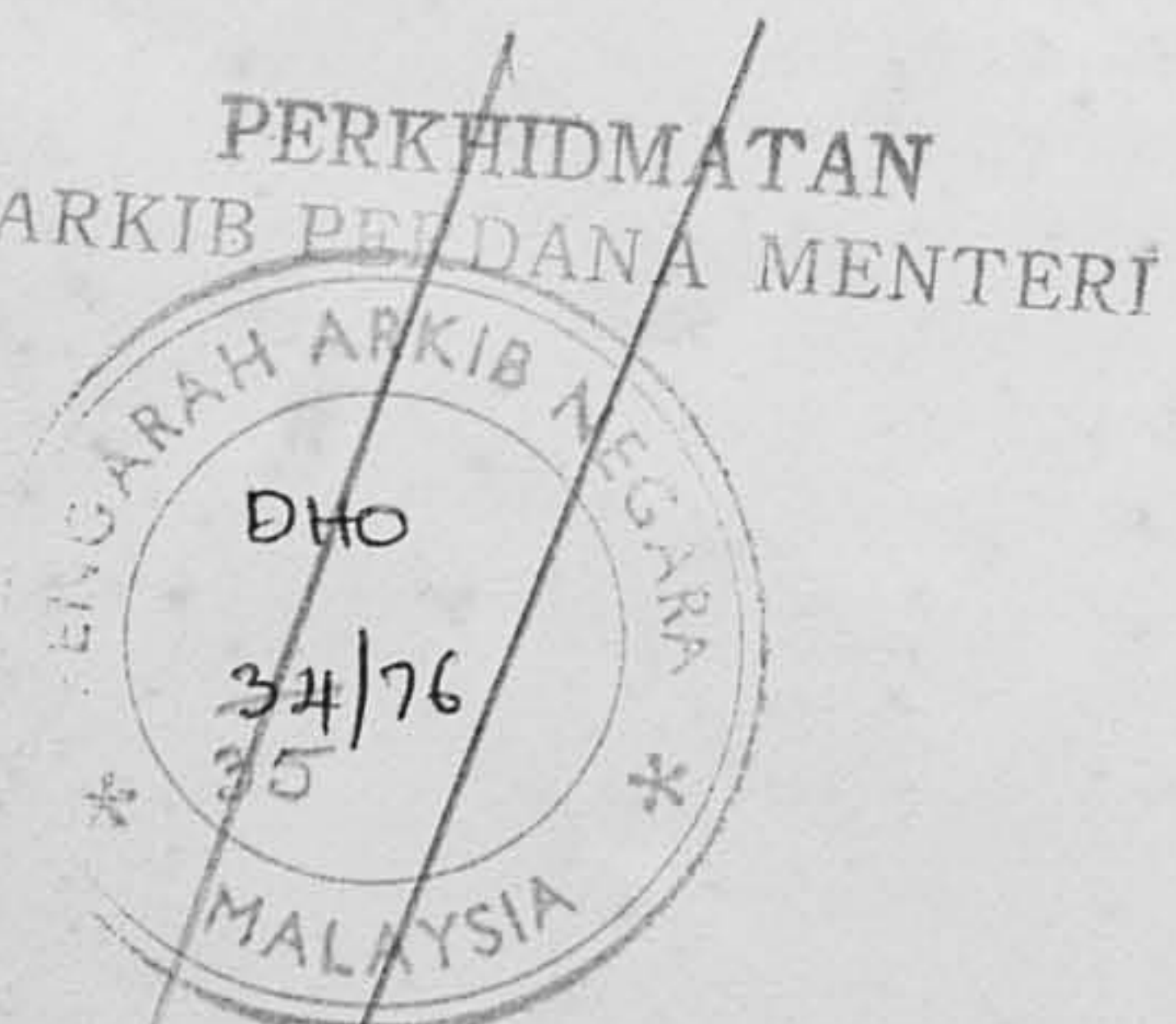




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