



# siaran akhbar

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PERKHIDMATAN  
ARKIB PERDANA MENTERI

PEN.10/76/75(PM)

PRIME MINISTER OPENS ASEAN COUNCIL  
MEETING ON PETROLEUM

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Speech by the Prime Minister, Datuk Hussein Onn at the opening of the ASEAN Council meeting on Petroleum at Regent Hotel, Kuala Lumpur at 10.00 a.m. on October 15, 1976.

Saya mengalu-alukan kedatangan Perwakilan-perwakilan yang terhormat ke Kuala Lumpur kerana menghadiri mesyuarat Yang Kedua Asean Council on Petroleum. Saya berdoa supaya mesyuarat ini berjaya demi kepentingan dan faedah negara-negara kita semua. Kami menerima kedatangan tuan-tuan sekalian dengan tangan yang terbuka dan berharap hubungan sahabat akan bersefahaman diantara negara-negara kita akan makin bertambah erat.

I am honoured to be invited to open the Second meeting of the Asean Council on Petroleum - more easily remembered as ASCOPE. Malaysia is proud to be the host and I would like, on behalf of the Government, to welcome the distinguished delegates and others who are participating at this meeting.

Malaysia has always believed that its future is closely linked to the attainment of peace and harmony in the Southeast Asian region. So is the belief of such other countries as Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Philippines. Hence regional understanding and co-operation are vital; thus was ASEAN formed.

Malaysia has pledged itself to the basic aim of ASEAN, that is, to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development of this important region. The Declaration of ASEAN Concord, signed by the Heads of Governments on 24th February, 1976 at Bali, restated ASEAN'S Central purpose - that is, to enhance the well-being of the Southeast Asian peoples through effective socio-economic development. ASEAN is an association of truly independent nations - not stooges or puppets of any country - we object strongly any such imputation. It is certainly not conducive to good neighbourly relations to provoke and irritate our sensitivities.

ASEAN has travelled a long way. The journey has not always been smooth. But this we have taken as a challenge to us. It has been taken as a test of our patience, our sincerity, our wisdom and our resilience. Thank God, we have not been found wanting in all these!

A study has been made on "Economic Cooperation in ASEAN." Several regional projects have been recommended in the key sectors of agriculture, industry, trade, transport and communications. As regards commerce and industry, projects which have been identified include the Selective Trade Liberalisation Scheme, Industrial Complementation Scheme, Trade Statistics, training in Export Promotion and the ASEAN Product Display Centre. After reviewing the industrial cooperation programme, particularly with regard to the establishment of ASEAN industrial plants, it has been agreed that the following plants be established;

- (a) Urea plants in Indonesia and Malaysia.
- (b) Superphosphate plant in the Philippines.
- (c) Diesel engines plant in Singapore.

(more)

(d) Soda-ash plant in Thailand.

Other projects are being studied and considered.

Member countries in ASEAN have also agreed to concerted action on basic commodities, particularly food and energy, with a view to according priority and trading preferences to member countries. Another feature of the growing cohesion among ASEAN countries is the adoption of a joint approach to world economic problems.

I have spoken about ASEAN, although briefly, to emphasize how beneficial regional cooperation is. With each year, new projects for cooperative efforts are identified, studied and put into effect. Now a new agency to coordinate and collaborate on the development of petroleum resources through joint endeavours, has been established. Malaysia welcomes the formation of the Asean Council on Petroleum - ASCOPE. Although ASCOPE will operate **independently** of ASEAN, it will conduct its activities within the concept of ASEAN and will closely liaise with and inform ASEAN of its programmes and activities. This in itself is a further testimony to the vigour and vitality of ASEAN.

Malaysia is fortunate that it has found additional resources of petroleum and natural gas. A national oil company - Petroleum Nasional Berhad (PETRONAS) - was established in 1974 to provide the organisation and machinery for the effective implementation of the national policy with respect to the petroleum industry. A national petroleum policy has been formulated with the objective of bringing about the efficient utilization of this resource for industrial development and to ensure that maximum benefits accrue to the country.

Although PETRONAS has been vested with the responsibility for the exploration, development, refining, processing, manufacturing, marketing and distribution of petroleum and petro-chemical products, the Government welcomes the private sector, including foreign enterprises, to participate with PETRONAS in these industries. Such participation, however, must be consistent with the national petroleum policy.

Among the objectives for the development of our petroleum industry are:-

(a) to put to good use the petroleum resources of the country.

As a first priority, to serve national needs by making available adequate supplies at reasonable prices to meet domestic consumption, including the requirement of power, industry and agriculture;

(b) to ensure that Malaysians are adequately represented in terms of ownership, management and control in all phases of petroleum operations, ranging from exploration at one end, to marketing and distribution at both the local and international levels at the other;

(more)

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(take 3)

- (c) to enhance the favourable investment climate of the country by opening up new opportunities for the establishment of heavy energy-using and petro-chemical industries, both for the domestic and the export market;
- (d) to take advantage of the option of increasing revenue and export earnings by the export of oil and gas to overseas markets; and
- (e) to effect an optimal social and economic pace of exploration of the nation's endowment of exhaustible oil and natural gas resources, taking into account the need for conservation of these depletable assets and the protection of the environment.

Consistent with those objectives, the Government will encourage Malaysians to participate actively in all and related activities, including shipping and insurance in domestic, regional and foreign markets.

Although PETRONAS is the only public sector agency participating in petroleum related activities, the Government welcomes the participation of the private sector, provided it is consistent with overall national objectives. Thank God, we are now earning more from the exports of crude oil and partly refined petroleum and petroleum products

A masterplan study has been undertaken by PETRONAS for the overall development of oil and gas resources of the country. The Government, through PETRONAS, will assume an increasingly significant role in the development of these resources, particularly through joint-ventures in the extraction as well as downstream activities of the industry. The private sector is expected to play an important role in both upstream and downstream activities.

As you know, the petroleum industry is new to Malaysia. We are still short of qualified and expert personnel in this field. However, we are sparing no efforts to catch up, with the assistance of bodies and organisations such as ASCOPE, OPEC, PERTAMINA and other regional and international petroleum industry institutions, we will cut the time by at least half in acquiring the necessary knowledge and expertise in most aspects of the petroleum industry. We are determined to do so.

I now have much pleasure in declaring open the Second meeting of the ASEAN Council on Petroleum.

Thank you.

Kuala Lumpur,  
15hb. Oktober, 1976. (dikeluarkan pada pukul 2.30 petang)

TNM/na.

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