

**SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
TUN ABDUL RAZAK BIN HUSSEIN
AT MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATION CEREMONY AT PETALING JAYA
ON 1 DECEMBER 1967**

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished guests, Graduants, Ladies & gentlemen,**

Firstly, to those of you who are receiving your qualification today, I do not propose to give a lecture because I am sure that during your stay in this College, you have been subject to sufficient lecturing! So, therefore, I intend to give a speech both short and to the point!

It seems only yesterday that I stood on this platform at a similar ceremony congratulating the group before you who have since left this College and taken their respective places in the commerce and industry of our country!

It appears to me that graduation ceremonies seem to occur with more frequency every year.

It shows that M A R A is in fact fulfilling the aim it was given when launched two years ago!

There is no need for me to repeat again the objects, intentions and aims of MARA of which this college forms an integral part.

You all know that already!

But I am glad to say that as the days go by we are beginning to achieve more and more bumiputra participation in the private sector of our economy, but nevertheless, in your case, bumiputra participation **does not stop dead on the day** of the presentation of Diplomas and Certificates; bumiputra participation, in fact, means active, efficient and purposeful practice by those of you who have been lucky enough to attend this College, and have acquired knowledge and skills with which you are now equipped, so that you can play a positive part in the commercial and industrial life of our country.

As more and more of you graduate from this College and take your rightful place in the economic development of our country, the happier I and all true Malaysians become.

This is proof of the correctness of the politics of the Alliance Government.

We are getting nearer and nearer our ultimate aim of a **balanced** Malaysia, a balanced economy, and we are well on our way to correcting any **imbalance** we inherited on Merdeka Day from the defects of the past administration.

Let me remind you of the aims of our National Education Programme which we set ourselves to achieve, and of which this Maktab MARA forms an **integral part**.

In that vast and ambitious Educational Programme, our aims which we are well on the way towards achieving, are as follows:-

- to consolidate further the national educational system in order to promote social, cultural and political unity;
- to provide educational facilities, particularly at the secondary level, to meet the needs of the increasing school-age population;
- to improve the quality of education and to spread education opportunities more evenly throughout the country so as to correct imbalances between the urban and rural areas;
- to diversify educational and training facilities by increasing such facilities in vital fields, especially those relating to agricultural and industrial science and technology.
- to accelerate teacher training in order to produce the necessary number of qualified and skilled teachers.

In other words, in order to tap the natural resources of our country, of which there is great potential, we have also to produce a programme so that we can also tap our "human resources" in order to achieve development targets which we have set ourselves.

I am no "rubber tapper", but today, I feel that in presenting these Diplomas and Certificates, I am playing the role of a much more important "tapper", because here in this College we are tapping the human potential that exists in our country, particularly that of the bumiputra.

I do hope that this flow of trained skills and essential knowledge which has been given to you, will be utilized to the full, so that when you join your respective firms and industries, your training in this College will not have **been** in vain - and that work and energy will pay dividends as **human** investment to our progress.

Once you leave this College, it is up to **you and you alone**, to apply to the full what you have learned and contribute your part, a part more important than that of the politician - because if we are to really achieve the progress we desire, it is up to you, our young and newly qualified people, to ensure that **you do not sit back on your laurels** and regard your Diploma as a lottery ticket; you must make up your mind and apply your knowledge and skill for the greater productivity of our country.

In the last ten years of our progress since independence, our productivity in each sector of our economy has increased tremendously in spite of the setbacks we have encountered such as the Emergency and Confrontation, and even, today we are experiencing set backs such as the adverse effects in the fall in the price of rubber and devaluation.

But, there will always be setbacks, there will always be problems.

The life in the history of the development of any nation is never smooth and level. We are bound to have ups and downs, both seen and unforeseen.

It is therefore necessary that to achieve progress we need, not only a development plan; we need not only an educational plan to develop our human resources; we need not only sound policies and sound methods of implementation, equally important, we need also to **develop and acquire a national attitude of mind** which will produce a tenacious Malaysian spirit so that we view our difficulties, not with despondance and desperation, but rather with

determination and the **drive** to push our progress, in spite of anything that may crop up from time to time to stand in our national way!

What is the good of having a sound development plan; what is the good of pressing ahead with industrialisation and agricultural diversification, and all these other things we strive for all of us who are loyal, sensible and peace-loving citizens, if, over night, all these achievements can be sabotaged and wrecked by a reckless minority!.

Over the last ten years we built worldwide reputation for Malaysia; the free world has trusted us, and people had faith in our stability, to invest within our shores, and yet, overnight, through the actions of a few hooligans, the world Press picks up items of rioting and arson, thus lowering our stock in the eyes of the outside world.

Are we going to sit back and allow our future and children's future to be ruined by a few irresponsible elements?.

No, we are taking firm action to protect Malaysia for posterity.

I can assure you that my government has, and will always take the firmest and strongest action against these enemies of the State, not only to suppress them, but, we hope, to eliminate them completely.

Government is determined to eradicate this cancer, but the greatest weapon of the government in a democracy is a **positive public opinion** which will fully support the side of right so that the liberties of all peace-loving Malaysians are safeguarded, and that we do not allow everything that we have achieved in the last ten years to be destroyed over-night by an irresponsible, selfish few.

So, therefore, those of you who are graduating today and go out from this College, I hope, will not only be good technically and professionally in your job, but would also behave, act, think and conduct yourselves as good Malaysian citizens, and so contribute to the mainstay of Malaysian stability - a rational and sensible public opinion.