

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
ON THE OFFICIAL OPENING
OF THE MANAGEMENT TEACHER
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
FROM 3RD JULY TO 12TH AUGUST 1967

His Excellency, The High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, Chairman of MARA, Tan Sri Taib bin Haji Andak, The Director of Training, Inche' Mansor bin Othman, The Principal, Maktab MARA, Encik Arshad Ayob, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

First of all please let me, on behalf of the Malaysian Government and my Ministry, extend our very warm welcome to Mr. Philip Limb and his team of lecturers who have come all the way from the United Kingdom to be with us this afternoon in running this programme of studies for our teaching staff in the MARA College of Business and Professional Studies. Their presence with us here today is timely and sincerely appreciated. It is yet another clear evidence of the close and friendly relationships Malaysia has had and will continue to have, with the United Kingdom in the political, economic, and social fields particularly in the new field of management education and training. I trust that their stay with us here will be pleasant and rewarding and may it pave the way for more fruitful endeavours in the field of education and training between our two peoples in the future.

A fortnight ago when I addressed the Second Seminar on Development in Kuala Lumpur, I said, among other things, that "leaders of any properly governed nation in the world particularly what we called the developing nations are, quite rightly, as I am, impatient, for progress. We have got to get things done and get them done quickly". Somehow I have a sneaking suspicion that between Mansor and Arshad they are gleefully trying to fix me and to hold me to ransom for what I have said so many times on the sense of urgency and self-involvement in the task of our Malaysian development. This is my fourth visit to this College since September last year and on every visit there is always something exciting, something important and useful developing in this College. There is always somehow an alertness to new approaches and ideas and a willing spirit for innovation. They and their staff seem to know the art of living with my sense of impatience for progress and it is my hope that the dynamism and the spirit of enthusiasm they all have generated thus far in the context of MARA's overall development will be sustained and further enhanced in the future.

Since the formation of MARA in July, 1965, the MARA College of Business and Professional Studies has expanded rapidly in its number of students, fourfold, its teaching staff 5 - 6 times more, its library staff 4 times and its administrative

staff about 4 times. Bearing in mind that the majority of the teaching staff are fresh from universities/colleges, locally and abroad, and the fact that the majority of the students they are teaching, come from the rural areas and therefore new to ideas and disciplines in economics and commerce, we consider it necessary that these teachers be given the requisite additional training in management development and techniques, themselves, if they are to make a success of the training and education of the students under their charge. It is with this firm objective in view its training with MARA have organised this course in the hope of giving our lecturers/teachers a better understanding of new ideas and concepts on the techniques of teaching and education so that with fresh imagination initiative and integrity they will be able to help us cultivate to maximum advantage whatever qualities our students here in this College have for best performance and fruition.

It is our hope also that the ensuing discussions and exchange of ideas and thoughts will be the fore-runner in providing the yeast, the catalysts among our lecturers/teachers and, subsequently through them, our students, to strive towards the highest possible standards of discipline and ethics in business management in commerce and industry. In short we want to train our own trainers themselves in management development.

What we are aiming at, in this and the many more management teacher development programmes which are being actively planned for further improving the teaching qualities of our staff, is to help the teachers/lecturers crystallise their own motivation and hence the dedication of their own energies, time and effort towards fulfilling MARA's objective of stimulating, assisting and facilitating Bumiputera participation in commerce and industry in concert with the Malaysian Government's overall policy of raising the standards of living of the Malaysian people, particularly those in the rural sector.

But I know this is no easy task. While it may be comparatively easy to make students learn, for example, cost accountancy, commercial law, secretaryship and stenography it is much more difficult to make the sons/daughters of subsistence farmers, fishermen and rubber tappers to shed old-fashioned and outdated attitudes and other forms of social integuments which have been instrumental for their economic backwardness to-date.

Their traditional values run counter to the demands and discipline of commerce and industry for example, their non-acceptance of interest and relative indifference to the value of money, savings and investment, eating and drinking habits to mention a few which have and are still continuing to cloud Bumiputera thinking and vision in the particular context of their active and meaningful participation in commerce and industry. It is in the light of these difficulties that I hope the injection of new ideas and disciplines will bring fresh dynamism in the fertile minds of our lecturers/teachers to help them find some of the answers and solutions to the problems of change and of providing acceptable new social and economic values for the Bumiputera students sufficiently dynamic and exciting to

make them to want to excel, innovate and improve themselves. In other words the measure of the success of this particular course of training to our lecturers/staff is how and to what extent will these new ideas and thoughts could nurture their greater sense of involvement in the development and training of our students for leadership and excellence in the complex and highly competitive world of commerce and industry in this country.

Success in doing so would more than justify the trust and confidence of the British tax payers who have given us help so generously. In thanking the British Government and people for this set of generosity I would like also to take this opportunity to thank Dr. O.G. Pickard, the Principal of Ealing Technical College in recommending and preparing the groundwork for this type of training which we have pleasure in implementing.

I trust that this financial assistance is the beginning of closer co-operation in commercial education between us in Malaysia and the United Kingdom Government. I understand the Principal of the College has prepared a paper for technical assistance particularly in the form of additional staff to teach accountancy, hotel and catering, English and management and science subjects and I would be most happy to hear of Your Excellency's response on this pressing matter. As your Excellency are aware we are short of trained and qualified teachers,

- (a) to undertake staff development programmes;
- (b) to plan and introduce new courses of study;
- (c) to develop an effective system of exposing students to new techniques and methods of teaching.

We believe that the Institution of Management Studies in the United Kingdom particularly The Polytechnic Management Teacher Development Programme through its long existence and accumulated experience can help us considerably to cope with the magnitude and the urgency of our training requirements. To train all our present lecturers of 60 which will increase to an estimated 300 by 1970/71 in the United Kingdom is not administratively practicable in view of our grave shortage of lecturers, the time available at our disposal and the shortage of funds. Rather than send "Mohamad to the mountain" we have been able through the generous offer of the British Government, the willingness of the governing Council of London Polytechnic and the Slough College to release their lecturers for service with us, the cooperation of the Ministry of Overseas Development of the United Kingdom and the Department of Technical Education and Training for Overseas Countries and finally the Commonwealth Education Cooperation Vocation Course Scheme to attend their course for our teachers.

Now that the stage for the meeting of minds, experience and knowhow has been set and that the goals clearly outlined, I hoped that, through effective communication of ideas and free and fruitful discussions, during the course, our lecturers/teachers will be sufficiently stimulated and encouraged towards more

dynamic thoughts and greater efforts in the task we all have in common - of training and educating the Bumiputeras in commerce and the professions, to motivate them along the path of progress in the wider context of our overall efforts towards nation-building and prosperity.