

Oleh : DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABD RAZAK
Tempat: HOTEL MANDARIN ORIENTAL, KUALA LUMPUR
Tarikh: 17-07-2004
Tajuk : MAJLIS SANTAPAN PENAUNG-PENAUNG DIRAJA (ROYAL
PATRONS DINNER) SEMPERNA SAMBUTAN ULANGTAHUN KE-
100 ST. JOHN INSTITUTION

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,
Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh dan
Salam Sejahtera,

Mengadap Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku Sultan Selangor Sultan
Sharafuddin Idris Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin
Abdul Aziz Shah AlHaj, Mengadap Duli Yang Teramat Mulia
Raja Muda Perak Raja Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan
Muhibbuddin Shah, Mengadap Duli Yang Amat Mulia Raja Puan
Muda Perak Raja Nor Mahani binti Raja Haji Shahar Shah,

Ampun tuanku beribu-ribu ampun, sembah patik mohon diampun,

Patik mengadap dan merafak sembah dengan penuh ampun dan
takzim memohon perkenan Ke Bawah Duli-duli Tuanku
untuk meneruskan ucapan dalam Bahasa Inggeris.

Ampun Tuanku,

His Royal Highness The Sultan of Selangor,
His Royal Highness The Raja Muda of Perak,
Her Highness Raja Puan Muda Perak,
His Grace Archbishop Murphy Packiam,
Education Ministry's Secretary-General, YBhg. Dato' Ambrin
bin Buang, Centenary Celebration Chairman, YBhg. Dato'
Abdul Azim Mohd. Zabidi, Fellow Johannians,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First and foremost, I would like to welcome fellow
Johannians to this momentous gathering to celebrate the
school centenary celebrations. The school was founded on
18 January 1904 by three La Salle Brother from St.
Xavier Institution of Penang, the school started off as a
single building of timber to accommodate both primary and
secondary students.

2. It was said that the construction of the original building would have been completed faster if not for the fact that tigers attacked the oxens that was pulling the lumber to the school site. That was 100 years ago when the tigers were still roaming in Kuala Lumpur.

3. From that humble beginning, St. John Institution had progress into one of the finest schools in the country, providing education to ten of thousands of Malaysians who in turn have contributed to the progress and well being of this country in their own way.

4. In this respect, the role of the headmasters and teachers was instrumental in making St. John Institution a premier institution. Their sacrifice, commitment and devotion were the essential ingredient in shaping the success of St. John Institution. Johanianns, I know will have found memories of their teachers and tonight on behalf of all Johannians, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to them for helping shape our lives.

5. Times have change and the demand on them to deliver has increased. For St. John to move ahead and continue to remain one of the premier school, it needs dedicated teachers and principals who take pride in their profession.

6. Also, St. John has to ensure the students have access to modern teaching equipment facilities. This included computerised classroom, internet and intranet facilities and a good library.

7. In this respect, Johannians can help to support the school's development toward this direction. To para phrase John F. Kennedy ;

"Ask not what the alumni can do for you but who can do for the alumni".

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Malaysia is firmly committed towards transforming itself to become a knowledge-based economy. This commitment has been articulated through our various national policies, such as the National Vision Policy and the Knowledge-Based Economy Masterplan. As a developing country which aims to be a developed nation by the year

2020, we fully appreciate that knowledge and technology are the best implements for our aspirations.

9. We also acknowledge and that the creation, distribution and utilisation of knowledge have become the primary engine of growth and wealth creation in many developed economies. Research has indeed shown that more than 50% of the GDP of major OECD countries is now based on the output of knowledge-based industries.

10. Towards achieving the objectives laid out in the Knowledge-Based Economy Masterplan, the Government has made significant investments in the transformation process of knowledge, especially in the areas of ICT. We have recognised the enormous potential of ICT for improving our economic and social condition, and have sought to harness its power through the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) initiative, which is now acknowledged by experts all over the world to be ahead of schedule.

11. More importantly, ICT is regarded as an important tool that can not only improve the country's competitive position globally by enhancing our efficiency, but also support a broad range of development objectives. The frontiers of ICT are virtually limitless - innovation and creativity are what we need to fully utilise the power and potential of ICT to aid our nation's aspiration of achieving Vision 2020.

12. An educated and skilled workforce will be the engine of growth for the economy. In fact, this is one of the major factors that have enabled our nation to continuously maintain our competitiveness in the face of other emerging regional and global players. In this regard, education will be vital in helping to improve the level of knowledge, skills, character and competence of our workforce. Globalisation and the transition to the knowledge society will create a greater demand for higher education. A sound and high quality education can play a vital role in producing the desired workforce to cope with the demands of a knowledge-based economy.

13. The Government under the stewardship of YAB Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is fully committed to this cause.

Education will be a strategic area of focus and one where a large bulk of Government expenditure will be devoted.

14. The Government recognises the urgent need to produce more knowledge workers and at the same time to mitigate the brain drain that has plagued our national brain trust for a couple of decades now. I would like to emphasise that the Government will do all it can to ensure the skills and competence of the Malaysian workforce will be enhanced in line with our Vision 2020 aspirations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. We will hope St. John Institution will continue on for another 100 years, providing quality education and will remain as one of the premier schools in this country. The school has achieved much during the 100 years of its establishment. We hope the tradition of excellence will prevail and flourish in years to come.

Thank you.

Ampun Tuanku, beribu-ribu ampun sembah patik mohon diampun.

Sekian, terima kasih.