

Oleh : DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABD RAZAK
Tempat : DEWAN PERDANA FELDA
Tarikh : 07-07-2006
Tajuk : PELANCARAN SAMBUTAN 50 TAHUN FELDA

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,
Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dr. Mohd. Yusof Noor,

Yang Amat Berbahagia Dato' Musa Hitam,

Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun Sakaran Dandai,

Yang Berhormat Bekas-Bekas Menteri FELDA,

Wakil-Wakil Kerajaan Negeri,

Kumpulan Pengurusan FELDA,

Our Distinguished Visitors from Overseas,

Wakil-Wakil Peneroka FELDA,

Tuan-tuan dan puan-puan,

Saya berasa amat terhormat dengan izin Allah saya diberi penghormatan dan peluang yang begitu istimewa untuk menjadi tetamu kehormat melancar sambutan 50 tahun kewujudan FELDA. Bagi orang-orang politik, ukuran yang biasa digunakan untuk menentukan sama ada sesuatu majlis itu berjaya kalau jumlah yang hadir lebih ramai dari bilangan kerusi yang ada.

Tapi hari ini, kita bukanlah berkumpul berasaskan kepada jumlah yang hadir semata-mata. Ada banyak sebab mengapa bila kita berkumpul hari ini, kita merasa bahawa sesuatu yang hendak dicapai oleh kita, sesuatu yang telah diimpikan oleh kita hari ini menjadi satu kejayaan yang sama-sama kita banggakan. Ini adalah disebabkan bahawa dalam perjalanan kita yang penuh dengan suka duka, pahit manis selama 50 tahun, kita sudah sampai pada satu detik di mana kita boleh menyingkap kembali sejarah 50 tahun kewujudan FELDA.

Ada organisasi yang tak dapat sampai ke umur 50 tahun kerana menimpa hujan di tengah hari. Tapi Alhamdulillah bagi FELDA, kita ketika menyambut 50 tahun usia FELDA, kita menyambut perayaan ini dengan satu perasaan bahawa dalam tempoh masa 50 tahun, berkat usaha semua pihak, berkat pimpinan negara yang menunjukkan iltizam politik yang begitu bersungguh-sungguh, kita telah berjaya menjadikan FELDA diiktiraf sebagai organisasi pembangunan tanah yang paling berjaya di dunia.

Oleh itu bagi pihak kerajaan, saya ingin mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih yang tidak terhingga kepada semua yang telah menabur jasa bakti kepada kejayaan FELDA. Daripada kakitangan yang paling rendah, yang telah dengan beraninya menerokai sama-sama penerokaan ladang tanah, membersihkan hutan belantara yang sarat dengan binatang buas kepada kepimpinan pengurusan tertinggi yang pengerusi-pengerusinya sinonim dengan kejayaan FELDA seperti Tan Sri Raja Alias dan lain-lain. Namun hari ini, kita tidak akan hanya menoleh ke belakang walaupun itu memang yang semestinya kita lakukan, tetapi sambutan seperti ini lebih bermakna jika kita melakukan sesuatu yang melihat ke hadapan, untuk menentukan hala tuju bagi organisasi kita yang telah wujud selama 50 tahun.

Di majlis yang begitu bermakna ini saya ingin menggariskan lima misi utama FELDA 50 tahun yang akan datang. Lima misi utama FELDA ini adalah selaras dengan matlamat-matlamat negara selaras dengan hasrat kita untuk menjadikan Malaysia sebuah negara maju dan selaras dengan misi nasional yang telah dibentangkan oleh YAB. Perdana Menteri kita baru-baru ini.

1. Untuk menjadikan setiap rancangan FELDA di seluruh negara sebagai masyarakat luar bandar yang boleh diiktiraf sebagai komuniti contoh di luar bandar... dalam erti kata sempurna, lengkap, selesa, moden prasarananya, baik masyarakatnya, bersatu padu, kemudahan beribadat, pendidikan, segala-galanya boleh kita jadikan sebagai contoh kepada komuniti yang lain.
2. Supaya kita menjadikan peneroka-peneroka FELDA sebagai golongan pendapatan pertengahan (Middle income group).
3. Supaya kita berjuang untuk menentukan generasi ke-2, generasi ke-3 terbela sepenuhnya.
4. Untuk menjadikan FELDA sebagai pelaku global yang signifikan berasaskan kepada kecekapan, strategi dan keuntungan yang berterusan.
5. Untuk menentukan bahawa budaya FELDA mesti merupakan budaya yang sentiasa diperkukuhkan dengan tiga unsur penting iaitu expertise (kemahiran yang semestinya terus meningkat) values (nilai yang semestinya menjadi pegangan kita) dan fokus pada matlamat yang mesti menjadi tumpuan kepada kita.

Saya kira kalau kita dapat memperjuangkan lima misi ini dan saya percaya kita boleh mengupas dengan lebih terperinci lagi apa yang dimaksudkan lima misi utama FELDA itu. Saya percaya, Insya-Allah, satu hari nanti bila kita sambut perayaan 100 tahun FELDA, kita boleh merasa bahawa FELDA telah mencapai sepenuhnya kelima-lima misi utama kita, Insya-Allah.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here this morning, to share our vision with you on the future of FELDA, especially for the next 50 years. On behalf of the government and FELDA Group, I would like to extend my sincere and warmest welcome to the delegates of the FIC 2006 held in conjunction with its 50 years celebration. The creation of FELDA on July the 7th 1956 is a significant milestone in the history of Malaysia. It was the brainchild of the late Prime Minister Tun Abd Razak, our 2nd Prime Minister, to redress poverty and overcome landlessness amongst the rural poor. It was guided by 2 basic principles namely giving opportunities to those who have no land and giving the best land for the most able people. The philosophy behind this approach is to offer land to the landless. And ultimately to create a prosperous farming community with economically viable agricultural developments. Over this 50 years period, it has undergone enormous changes from a purely land development and resettlement base to a conglomerate involving a wide spectrum of agro base and commercial undertakings. Today marks the culmination of our hopes, of our aspiration, of our past and present leaders of the nation. In this context I have always maintained and I will give you my undertaking that FELDA will continue to have the support and commitment of the government to ensure its future success. Indeed, we will do whatever it takes to bring FELDA to greater heights in the coming years.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, FELDA has evolved to be the most successful land development agency not only in Malaysia but also in the world, having developed some 811,140 hectares of forest land constituting about 18.4% of the total cultivated area under oil palm and rubber in the country. Beside this, it has successfully resettled 104,946 settlers in 278 settlement schemes giving nearly a million people a new way of life and a better future. Even though there are no more fresh intakes of settlers effective from 1990, the settlers community is expected to grow bigger with the emergence of the 2nd and 3rd generation of FELDA settlers. To date FELDA has developed about 702,000 hectares of oil palm and 102,000 hectares of rubber constituting 18% and 9% of the country's crop area respectively. Balance of 6,509 hectares is under sugar cane and other crops. In 2005, the nation's total oil palm and rubber planted areas are 4 million hectares and for rubber 706,700 hectares respectively. FELDA produces approximately 19% of Malaysia's palm oil and 16% of its rubber. Malaysia's CPO and rubber production was 15 million tons and 1.12 million ton respectively in 2005. FELDA also supplies about 8% of the world's palm oil. With the strong demand from the United States and Middle East and the European Union, FELDA is in the position to capture bigger share of the world oil market. All of these reflect FELDA's remarkable achievement in the pursuit of its objectives.

Ladies and gentlemen,

FELDA's achievements can also be measured by the improved opportunities for advancement and a higher quality of life for the settlers and their children, for better education, housing and other social amenities. FELDA has also transformed its settlement into new growth centers. It has currently developed 3 new growth centers known as Feldajaya. In Trolak, Perak; Serting, Negeri Sembilan and Mempaga, Pahang. These growth centers are places of opportunity to diversify income generating options by engaging in new ventures. The establishment of the Feldajaya township in the rural area has been viewed as a step towards achieving sustainable development. FELDA's involvement in these activities has helped the government in its objectives of capacity building and towards our march in being a developed nation in 2020. Notwithstanding FELDA's successes, its management, staff and settlers can no longer rest on their laurels as much more needs to be done in the next 50 years. FELDA's past achievements can be part of its institutional legacy. The next step is for FELDA to move on. Here I would like to share our vision as to the way FELDA should approach in the next 50 years.

1. Firstly, the FELDA community must emerge as a model community in the full sense of the word whereby it is modern, clean, beautifully landscaped and free from all social ills. It should be a model to be emulated and benchmarked by all. For this to happen, FELDA community must be provided with a full range of not only basic but quality infrastructures such as water, electricity, roads and other facilities such as health, education and also good communication network.

2. Secondly, FELDA has to ensure that its settlers maintain the quality of life that is consonant with its new development; an important prerequisite is the need to increase and diversify their income. In other words, the income base for FELDA settlers must be broadened in the next 50 years. To achieve these, FELDA must strengthen its non-farm activities such as agricultural farming, trading and services. Efforts must also be accelerated to promote entrepreneurial development with emphasis on SMEs and handicrafts development. All this hopefully will ensure emergence of a new middle class amongst FELDA settlers.

3. The third strategy which I would like to emphasize is the need for FELDA to become a major global player. No doubt FELDA has transformed itself in becoming a corporate player with 49 companies and joint ventures with an annual turn over of some RM8 billion. Nonetheless, FELDA must have the right mindset to move forward in the global arena. In addition to having this mindset, there is a need to strengthen a pro business corporate culture and to cultivate a large multi skill and multi talented human resource pool. It is undoubtedly, the caliber, dedication, and drive of the people managing and leading the business that makes a real difference and achieving these takes a lot of effort and time. Continuous improvements must therefore be to increase productivity and yields, and adopting best practices. It is also common knowledge that Malaysia is going through unprecedented changes and is under great pressure from regional and international producers of palm oil and other vegetable oil. Being a major producer in this country, it will have to move in tandem with national goals and aspirations. FELDA must therefore upgrade its human resources by recruiting the best people to refocus its energies consistent with

its corporate visions goals and having a sense of commitment especially in creation of our corporate values.

4. Fourthly, the focus must be in the harnessing and developing the potential of 2nd generation settlers totaling some half a million people. Our estimate of our 3rd generation is in fact even bigger which is 1.5 million people. The 2nd generation must be viewed and seen as a vast pool of human resources and should be a great asset to FELDA and to the nation. As such they must be given the necessary opportunities to advance and in this context FELDA must continue to provide educational, including technical and vocational training and employment opportunities for the next generation of settlers. A good education is indeed a catalyst for the development of growth centers and settlements in FELDA schemes. It is also imperative that in the scheme of things, FELDA will be a major source, a major contributor to the movement and migration from the agriculture sector to the new economy. Therefore encouraging the younger generation to be innovative, creative and resourceful is a vital strategy to the success of FELDA.

5. The fifth vision is the importance of strengthening FELDA as an organization, in fact as an institution. An institution will only be strong if imputed with the right sense of values and in this regard I would like to emphasize 3 important ingredients :

- o expertise (we have the expertise but we need to strengthen and improve on our knowledge and expertise);

- o we need to develop very strong core values for the organization; and

- o ultimately we must be result and performance oriented. A high performance culture must be translated into our goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

What is the threat to FELDA? Perhaps, if there is one area for concern, we might have the tendency lay on our laurels and to be complacent. Like any other large organizations, there's always the tendency to become complacent because we are in our comfort zone. We are so used to doing things our way; we do not think there is a better way of doing things. According to studies on organizations, there is a tendency for large organizations to become rigid and less dispose to change. In this context, FELDA must avoid the danger to be static and unwilling to change and seek ways to improve and remain continuously dynamic. With globalization and liberalization, intense competition from transnational corporations and other nations across the globe will be inevitable. FELDA has no option but to move up the value chain. Ventures in areas like bio technology especially in herbal and bio mass activities, are important. FELDA must strive for quantum leaps in improvements and innovations so that the vision that I have outlined will become a reality. Indeed, FELDA must continuously transform and reinvent itself in order to remain relevant in the context of a changing world.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have spoken of FELDA's remarkable achievements and of our aspirations to seek greater progress and growth of FELDA for the benefit of all the stake holders particularly the settlers and their families. I hope and pray that as we mark FELDA's 50th anniversary, we also mark the beginning of a renewed sense of enthusiasm, a renewed sense of commitment and a renewed sense of resolve to realize our aspirations and to ensure that the lofty goals of our previous leaders will truly be reflected in the future success of FELDA.

I wish FELDA every success, saya berdoa ke hadrat Ilahi semoga FELDA diberi segala petunjuk kekuatan, taufik dan hidayah untuk berjaya sebagai sebuah institusi yang boleh dibanggakan oleh seluruh rakyat Malaysia, Insya-Allah.

Dengan kata-kata demikian, saya dengan lafaz Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, dengan sukacitanya saya melancarkan sambutan 50 tahun FELDA dengan rasminya.

Terima kasih.

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh