

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR NATIONAL AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE
GRADUATION CEREMONY AT THE DEWAN LATIHAN
MARA ON 18TH DECEMBER, 1965

It gives me genuine satisfaction, indeed, to hear of the continuing progress the college is making in the training of an increasing number of Bumiputeras to take a more active part in the commerce and industry of this country. In my address at the first graduation ceremony exactly a year ago the college had a total enrolment of 181 students - today the figure has increased to 226. Last year there were 50 graduates, this year we have 54. I am encouraged also to hear that plans are afoot to expand the college to cater for an estimated enrolment of 500 residential and about 200 non-residential students in the proposed new college at Batu 3, Klang for completion by 1968. The college not only will offer courses of studies now being undertaken, namely, Accountancy, General Business Management studies, Secretaryship and Stenography but also a number of new subjects including Banking, Statistics and Hotel Management. In line with the important role being played by the Chinese and Indian businessmen in the business life of the nation, I feel that Bumiputera businessmen who really want to be successful in their chosen fields should at least be conversant in either Mandarin, Hokkien, Cantonese or Tamil, apart from English and the National Language. On the strength of this belief we propose to teach colloquial Mandarin, Hokkien and Tamil to students in this college as soon as it is practicable to do so.

MARA invited Dr. O.G. Pickard, the Principal of Ealing Technical College, London firstly to look into the question of linking this college with Ealing in regard to conducting external examinations, and secondly to help the college in planning the proposed expansion, mentioned earlier. I am please to say he has given me very encouraging preliminary reports on the subjects and I would like to see those directly concerned with these subjects to study the full report when it comes in, I understand, during the next fortnight or so and get on with the work of planning and implementing it, as soon as possible.

I understand that the proposed site for the new college covering 100 acres has already been approved by the State Government of Selangor and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their generosity and cooperation on this matter.

Last year, I mentioned that it must be our policy ultimately for this college to have its own examinations, acceptable and recognized by

Government and by the business organisations in this country and I am pleased to hear that this college is now preparing a plan for the appointment of a governing body comprising of prominent members of the Government, Commerce and Industry to formulate policies aimed at the development of effective cooperation between the Government and the Business Community, in particular to the type of training businessmen would like the college to undertake to meet the specific requirements of commerce and industry, maintaining the high standards of academic and all round performance so essential for the future well-being of this college and lastly to offer facilities for employment for our graduates. At this juncture I would like to take this opportunity to thank the business community in this country for their enlightened management policies and cooperation on matters concerning the employment of our graduates in their firms, to-date. It gives me added pleasure to hear that the graduates have acquitted themselves well in their work and that their employers are pleased with their performance. As a result of this happy development, there is a considerable increase in the quantity and quality of students applying for admission into the college which is indeed a tribute to the teaching staff in particular, Encik Basha Merican the former Acting Principal of this college who retired in September this year, for all their hard work and leadership qualities in developing this college to what it is today. I trust this will spur the teaching staff on in their rewarding work to development and increase the number of trained manpower which is of vital importance for the industrial development of this country, in the particular context of the First Malaysia Plan. In this we are extremely fortunate to have the services of an energetic and experience officer, Encik Arshad bin Ayub, to serve as Principal of the college with effect from 1st December, 1965.

I trust that this healthy cooperation between the college and the business community will grow from strength to strength. Plans are afoot to conduct sandwich courses, visits to commercial and industrial organisations, especially, their factories, and courses during students vacation. I hope arrangements will be made to run these courses, as soon as possible.

I am very pleased to say that many firms are already responding to our appeal to have students of this college trained during their vacation, particularly, Socfin, Malayan Estates Agencies, Cooper Brothers, Raslan & Ong, Malayan Batteries Ltd., Textile Cooperation of Malaya and Colgate and Palmolive. What I have suggested, thus far, on the question of employment opportunities in commerce and industry applies equally well to Government. I feel that the times has come for Government to look into the employment possibilities for the graduates of this college in certain specific jobs in their organisations where the educa-

tion and training of the students suit them for example, audit, income tax, labour and in some cases the administrative departments.

Before I sit down, I would like to say a few words of advice to those students who are graduating from this college. Competition in the business world is fierce. Only those with initiative, a willingness to plan and make decision and the capability to work hard and productively will survive the gruelling pace. You can get on the top jobs on merit and performance — in other words the business world is a meritocracy in which only the fittest and the most enterprising will be able to stay in business and make profit. The business executives/managers are living in a dynamic and constantly changing environment in which those with character, integrity, adaptability and possessing a strong will to survive, will achieve success in their endeavours. From what I know of the training you have received here and the favourable impression you and your predecessors have created in the business world, I had every confidence that you all will become worthy of my hope and aspiration to accelerate the pace of Bumiputera active participation in commerce and industry. I hope you understand and share this confidence with me and make every effort to continue working as hard as you have done during your student life here.

To those students who are still continuing with their studies I would exhort them to apply themselves more diligently to their studies so that they will continue to better the standards of performance of their predecessors and at the same time condition their mind through more extensive and intelligent reading of business literature and develop more contacts with businessmen to enable them to meet the challenge of a successful career in business.

With this, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you all once again especially members of the staff and the business community for responding so well to our endeavours to train and create opportunities for the sons and daughters of Bumiputeras to increasingly participate in business and industrial life of our country. This, as you know is part of our National policy to redress the difference in the standards of living and job opportunity between the urban and the rural sectors of the population for the good of the country as a whole.



Tun Abdul Razak bin Hussein di Upacara Penyampaian Sijil di Dewan Latihan MARA, Petaling Jaya pada 18 Disember, 1965.