

**SPEECH BY THE HON'BLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AT THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FIRST SEMINAR OF RIDA & MARA
GRADUATES AT MAKTAB MARA, PETALING JAYA,
ON 14TH JUNE 1967**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am happy to be here this morning to officially declare open this first Seminar for RIDA and MARA graduates. During the last 9 months, I have been to this Maktab MARA 3 times. In September last year, I laid the foundation stone on the extension of this building, and then in April this year, I officially declares open this building and gave away prizes at the Graduation Ceremony. So you can see I have personally taken a great and keen interest in the progress of this Maktab MARA.

This Seminar that you are having this evening is the first of its kind to be held and I would like to congratulate the Chairman and members of the Organizing Committee for their far-sightedness in initiating this Seminar. This Seminar will give most valuable opportunities to graduates of RIDA and MARA College to evaluate the usefulness of their education and training received in the College and also to take stock of the progress that they have made - each and everyone of them has made in their varied experience in the wide and challenging field of commerce and industry. There is no doubt that this Seminar is of the utmost importance, and if you all, Ladies and Gentlemen, participants of this Seminar, do really make use of this opportunity of assessing the vocation and the training you had in this Maktab, and of exchanging your experience and knowledge in the field of commerce and industry, I have no doubt you will gain the greatest benefit in the time that you have spent at the Seminar.

I have always stated and I repeat it now, it is the Government's policy to provide the bumiputeras with greater opportunities in the field of commerce and industry. The problem, as in every field of endeavour, is human. The opportunities are there open to all citizens of this country, including the bumiputeras, to play their part in the commercial and industrial life of our country. But what the bumiputeras need is the spirit and the determination to go into commerce and industry and the knowledge and techniques in order to succeed in the very competitive and challenging world of commerce and industry. As I said, the opportunities are there, wide and open, and the Government will be prepared to give whatever assistance necessary to

bumiputeras to have their share in the economic life of the country. However, unless the bumiputeras have the determination and the knowledge and know-how, no amount of encouragement or assistance by the Government would be of any use. Therefore, we in the Government, look to you all, graduates of this Maktab, past, present and the future, to be the nucleus out of which will grow Malaysia directors and business executives for the bumiputeras. That is why I said in the implementation of this policy of giving greater opportunities for bumiputeras in the economic life of this country, this Maktab MARA has an important and vital part to play.

After all, what the Government can do in tackling the human problems of giving a greater share in the business life in the country for the bumiputeras is to give them the necessary training. Once the bumiputeras have been trained, they must be expected to stand on their own feet to meet the challenges and the competition in this field of commerce and industry. That is why it is of vital importance that you all who are pioneers in this respect, should from time to time take stock of the progress that you have made, come together to exchange your experiences, to learn from your past mistakes so that you can move forward with greater vigour, greater determination and with better knowledge and experience. There will be hundreds and thousands of others who will graduate from this College who will be looking towards you all for guidance, for example and for leadership and you will be expected to provide all these.

I have always stated, our country Malaysia, compared to many other developing countries, is rich in natural resources and rich in manpower. Both these must be fully exploited if we are to become a developed and progressive Nation. We must be prepared to adopt new methods, new techniques, and to follow up the advances in science and technology so that we will be able to adopt most up-to-date and techniques in the many fields of endeavour in our country. During the last ten years since we achieve independence, we have progressed much. Indeed, the last ten years will be regarded as a development decade which has no parallel in the history of our country. Our people of all races, particularly the have-nots, are enjoying a higher and better standard of living than they had ever enjoyed. We have expanded our social services and provided amenities in life throughout the country. In order to maintain the progress that we have achieved, and the services that are provided, it is necessary for us to increase productivity not only of our natural resources, but of individual - each one of use, whether we are civil servants, politicians, businessmen and ordinary villagers, must be prepared to work harder and produce more. Only by this way can we generate greater economic growth in our country. We have still vast resources of land which could be

developed; we have still vast resources of manpower which need training in the various skills, methods and techniques of achieving progress. In order to do all these, we need leadership. That is why we look forward to young men and women like you, who had the good fortune of being given necessary training, to provide that leadership. You must be prepared to show by your example, and by your character, the real and the right path of progress so that the many hundreds and thousands of our people who desire progress can look towards you all for that leadership and the guidance which they so badly needed.