

UCAPAN PERDANA MENTERI DI PEMBUKAAN
KUALA LUMPUR FORUM, DI DEWAN TUNKU
ABDUL RAHMAN, KUALA LUMPUR PADA 2HB
JULAI, 1973

Y.B. Datuk Ong Kee Hui¹, Dif-dif yang terhormat, Tuan-tuan dan puan-puan,

Terlebih dahulu, saya mengucapkan berbanyak-banyak terima-kasih kerana diberi penghormatan merasmikan Forum Kuala Lumpur atau KL Forum pagi ini.

Pada pendapat saya, langkah mengadakan Forum ini sangat kena pada waktunya iaitu semasa Kerajaan sedang membuat pengkajian Pertengahan Penggal Rancangan Malaysia Kedua dan di saat Ibu Kota Kuala Lumpur ini berada di ambang sejarah barunya sebagai Ibu Negara Malaysia menjadi Wilayah Persekutuan.

Sambil mengucapkan tahniah kepada Jawatankuasa Pengelola Forum ini, saya mengalu-alukan para peserta yang datang dari luar negeri dan dalam negeri, dan terutama kepada mereka yang datang pertama kali, saya berharap mereka akan berpuashati selama berada di Kuala Lumpur ini.

Distinguished Guests and Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Forum is particularly significant at this stage of our national development and more for this Capital City of ours which is on the threshold of its new status as Federal Territory when a bill to that effect is tabled before Parliament next Monday.

I take this opportunity to particularly welcome distinguished speakers and delegates from overseas and I hope you will be able to find time to visit other parts of the country, meet our people and learn something about our way of life. Your participation in this Forum will extend to us the vast knowledge and experience gathered in your own countries and, at the same time, you may be able to derive a fresh perspective of your own specific problems through observing the manner in which our professionals approached and dealt with similar problems.

¹ Y.B. Menteri Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The fact that this Kuala Lumpur Forum is jointly organised by the four Institutes—Architects, Town Planners, Engineers and Surveyors—to my mind is an achievement by itself. I understand this is the first time that the four Institutes have come together to work on a joint project like this.

In the past, we see each Institute organising conference of its own on subjects involving only its own field of specialization, but when all the four agree to come together in close co-operation, and working for a common objective, the result should be more profound and no doubt more meaningful and rewarding. I, therefore, look eagerly forward to read the proceedings and the recommendations of this Forum which might be applicable to our own needs and requirements.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is essentially a forum on planning, which involves not only the four allied professions but also civil servants and administrators and inevitably politicians like me who, in the final analysis, will be answerable to the people. In its essence, it is the people who are the final judges of any development planning—urban or rural—since they are the ones who have to live with it.

Living as we do in this era of rapid advancement in technology and communications, it is vital that there is close co-operation between the professional, the administrators, the sociologists and even the politicians, in confronting the common problems facing our Nation. And applying this in a wider sense, in the context of regional efforts and co-operation, we should also explore the possibilities of sharing limited resources of technical and professional manpower so that experiences gained in one country can be made available to deal with a similar situation in another. Conferences of this nature, therefore, in which participants are drawn from many different countries, will help to weld together our different peoples and create the understanding so essential for our continued progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We can be proud of the progress we have achieved in both rural and urban development. We have also embarked upon an ambitious

redevelopment programme in two major cities viz. Kuala Lumpur and Penang which embodies the framework of restructuring our urban community as envisaged by the New Economic Policy. Because of the multi-racial character of our population, we have to adopt a realistic approach to our problems and find a permanent and, at the same time, acceptable solutions to these problems. In this respect, the Urban Development Authority or UDA for short which has been in existence for over a year now, is expected to play an increasing role in order to fulfil the target of the New Economic policy.

Another major problem common to us in this region is population and I understand this subject is given high priority in your deliberations for the next few days. I need not go into the causes and effects of uncontrolled population growth, but suffice to say that we are fully alive to the situation and through concerted efforts of the National Family Planning Board, we hope to reduce our population growth as scheduled.

I said earlier on that in whatever planning that we do, be it housing or schools, roads or water supply, we should not overlook the fact that all these efforts are intended for the betterment of our people. It is a fact that when a large number of people are thrown together in a new community, there will inevitably arise problems of accommodation, education, employment and a host of other sociological problems. The larger the concentration of people, the bigger the problem and the more difficult the solution. But, the problems are not insurmountable so long as we are determined to grapple with them and provided we adopt the right approach and act firmly with sincerity and dedication.

Taking a more specific case of the urban migration into Kuala Lumpur, I think it is well for us to remember that those who have drifted from their kampungs have done so with the hope of bettering themselves with the new economic opportunities available in the commercial and industrial field. Others hope to better themselves through better education. As the main bulk of the urban migrants are youths, I did suggest to our Lord Mayor not so long ago that in the planning for housing accommodation, he should give consideration to providing accommodation specifically for youths, a departure from the present policy of providing family accommodation.

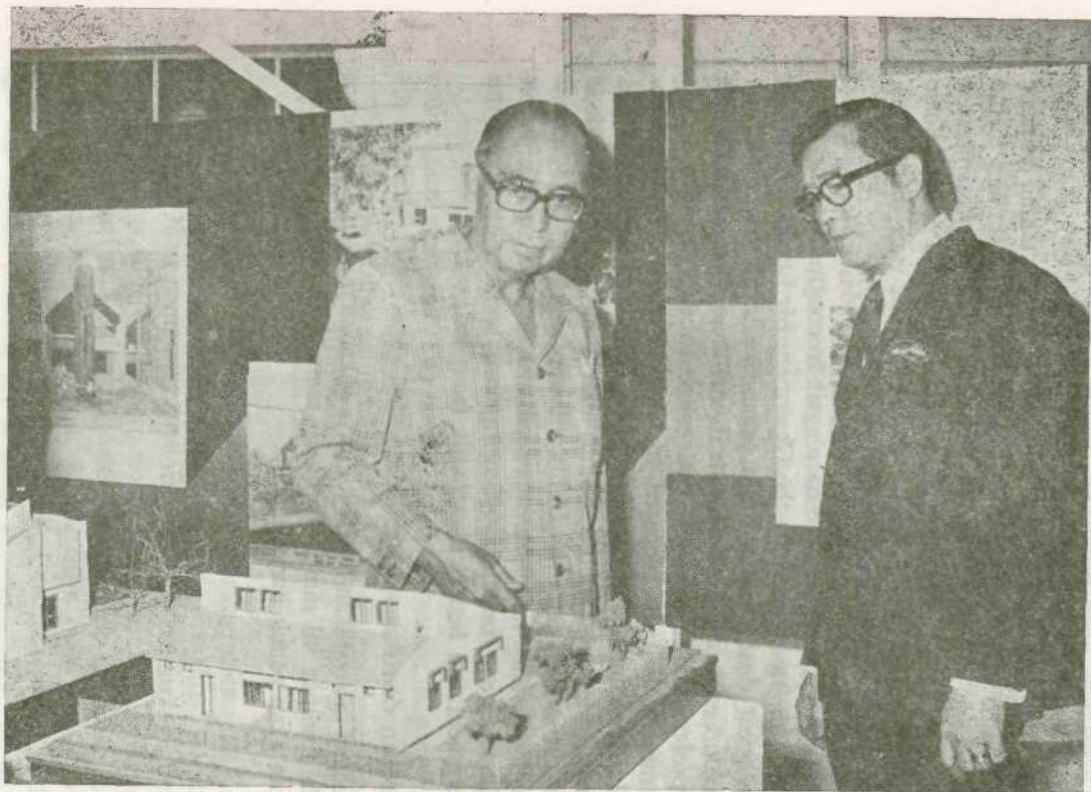
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are aware that the more advanced nations have been able to cope with this problem by establishing specialised institutions and providing heavy expenditure on accommodation and pre-employment assistance. Such provisions require a great deal of organisation and expenditure which at our present level of development we can ill-afford. But on the other hand, we are taking positive steps to curb the urban drift by opening new opportunities in the smaller town in rural areas, particularly in the more depressed states and thereby hope to reduce the flow in due course. Since this particular issue will feature prominently in your discussions, I look forward to whatever possible solutions you can offer.

In conclusion, I would like once again to congratulate the Organising Committee, especially the Chairman, Mr Leong, for having put a great deal of effort into organising this Forum and the Exhibition concurrently held with it. All these again indicate that our professional bodies are both alive to the problems facing Government and are prepared to shoulder part of the burden. I understand that the entire Conference and Exhibition is sponsored by the private sector from donations and subscriptions. This indeed is most commendable. I hope this will not be the last time that an entire Conference has been organised without active participation of Government or quasi-Government bodies, although the Government will benefit immensely from it.

Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan,

Dengan menyatakan hasrat itu, saya sukacita merasmikan Forum Kuala Lumpur ini sambil berharap semoga perbincangan-perbincangan akan penuh berjaya.



Tun Abdul Razak bin Hussein sedang menyaksikan pameran yang diadakan di pembukaan KL Forum di Dewan Tunku Abdul Rahman pada 2hb Julai, 1973.

(Gambar Jabatan Penerangan Malaysia)