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SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
AT THE OPENING OF THE MCA
YOUTH CONFERENCE AT THE
CHINESE ASSEMBLY HALL, KUALA LUMPUR
ON 25TH FEBRUARY, 1966.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the MCA Youth.

I am happy and honoured to come here today to meet you and to talk to you all. Two years ago in 1964 I had the honour of opening your Conference held in Ipoh. I am pleased today to be able to meet some old friends as well as new ones.

As I stand here looking at you all, I do not feel that I belong to a different political organisation or that I am only a guest speaker to your Conference. I feel that I am one of you and that you belong to our party and to our country. When we started the Alliance in 1953, it was only the leaders of the three parties, UMNO, MCA and MIC who met regularly to discuss matters of importance and at most of the times one party will be making a request or demand to the other. There was no understanding or unity at the lower level but today we find leaders of UMNO and MIC attending MCA meeting and addressing MCA meetings as if they were meetings of their own political parties. This is a clear example of the way in which the people of this country under the leadership of the Alliance and of our beloved Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Al-Haj, have moved forward towards better understanding and unity.

As you know, the basis of the Alliance policy is to bring about goodwill, understanding and unity among the various races who have made this country their home. We were once under colonial rule and then we became independent. We are the masters of our country and it is for us to make it or mar it. You all here are young men and women who will soon be taking over responsibilities from us to lead our party and to lead the country. Our future and everything that we have now and stand for will soon be in

your hands, that is why it is very important that for the future of our party that our Youth Section, be it UMNO, MCA or MIC youth should be strong because the future of our party and the country lies in their hands.

It is now almost thirteen years since the Alliance was formed and it is eleven years since the Alliance have been in power. These eleven years have indeed been momentous years in our history. From a dependent territory it became an independent nation, from the Federation of Malaya it became a bigger country - Malaysia. Also during these years our people of various races have been able to enjoy a measure of happiness, peace and prosperity which have been brought about under the leadership of the Alliance Government. The Alliance Government has always been following a just, fair and sincere policy. It has been our vowed aim to serve our people of various races, to give everyone of them a proper and rightful place in our country and to give them a decent standard of living compatible with a civilized society. No doubt we had a number of difficulties, controversial, delicate and sensitive issues to be resolved as the Tunku stated yesterday, education, language and citizenship but we have been able to resolve all the difficulties in a spirit of goodwill understanding and friendship. When we were about to achieve independence, some people expressed doubt that with independence there might be trouble, there might be racial clashes but on the contrary with independence goodwill and understanding and unity among our people have been strengthened. Then there was trouble about education. Everyone thought that it was not possible to bring together the various types of schools with different languages together under one national system of education but with patience, understanding and goodwill we were able to produce a national education policy, a national system of education formulated to give our children the best education possible to make them useful and loyal citizens of our country. Under our education policy every type of schools has been brought under our national system of education and has been given equal treatment. Also we faced two Emergencies. The first Emergency was brought to an end within two years of our independence and our closest neighbour, Indonesia, decided to confront us and for more than two years we have to face another emergency. However due to the loyalty of our people, the courage and bravery of our Armed Forces and the Policy assisted by our friends in the Commonwealth

we were able to defend our borders and our shores. Despite all these troubles our Government has been able to carry out development plan so that our people of various races can enjoy better amenities of life and a better and higher standard of living. Our Second Five Year Plan was implemented so successfully that we have even exceeded the target we set ourselves in 1961. What is more, in carrying out our Development Plan we have developed techniques of our own - techniques which have been acknowledged and appreciated by nearly all countries of the world and techniques which have produced results of which we can be well proud of. Today visitors from nearly every country in the world who came to our country sing praises of the way in which we have been able to develop our country. Therefore, all in all, these years since independence have been years of challenge as well as achievements. And not only we now but our descendents will be proud of the way in which we have governed and developed our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen, having looked to the past, of our great achievements in the past we must also look to the future and this is the duty of young people like yourself to look to the future because the future belongs to you and you will inherit all what we do now and all what we have now. The future of our country depends on one important thing, that is on the unity of our people of various races. Under the Alliance our people, Chinese, Malays and Indians have learned to regard one another as friends, brothers and sisters. The MCA look upon UMNO leaders as their leaders and UMNO leaders look upon MCA and MIC leaders as their leaders. It is our duty to continue to build on this unity, to strengthen it so that ultimately there will emerge a really united nation from our people of diverse racial origins. Some leaders outside the Alliance, with the object of dividing our people and bringing suspicion and distrust have raised doubts about the future of our people on certain section of our community.

We in the Alliance have no doubt about the future. We belong to this country. This is our home and it is our determination to make this country a happy, prosperous country for all of us. Quite naturally because we belong to different racial origins there are points of differences among us, among Malays, Chinese, Indians and others. Let us try to minimise these differences. Let us focus our attention on matters on which we all agree, on our similarities

that is why I hope that you young people from the MCA would try and work together with youth: of other races. UMNO and MIC in particular - meet them on common ground, on the field of sports and cultural centres and such other things so that you will understand one another the more. Now under our national education policy, children of all races are being educated under the same roof, learning the same thing in the same way. You young people must try to do things together, things that would strengthen the unity, the goodwill and understanding of our people.

Yesterday I was extremely touched by the support you showed personally to me. As the Tunku said we in the Alliance are of one heart, one mind and have one objective, that is to serve our people of all races, to promote racial harmony and to carry out policies of justice and fair play to all our people of various races. It is the duty of all of us, leaders in the Alliance to do this and it will be my personal duty to carry out these policies which have been set up by the Tunku and by our Alliance Party. As I said just now, for eleven years the Alliance Party has steered our country to merdeka, from merdeka to Malaysia and under the leadership of the Alliance, we had made this country peaceful and prosperous and have given our people of all races a home and place to live in.

Our objective in the future must be to continue to strengthen this racial unity and solidarity among our people of various races. During the last eleven years we have travelled far towards reaching this objective under the leadership of our Tunku and the Alliance. I would like to say categorically that this objective can only be achieved under the Alliance because we in the Alliance sincerely believe in this racial unity and cooperation. We carry out this objective not because of personal power or glory but because we sincerely have the interest and the welfare of our people and our country at heart. Other leaders of other opposition parties have attempted to draw a wedge through this unity. They do so not for love of our people or loyalty to our country but for personal gain and for personal power: They will never succeed as our people of all races have enough common sense to know what is right and what is good for them.

Lee Kuan Yew, the PAP and Lim Chong Eu, UDP, have tried to catch in with* high sounding slogans. They cannot succeed

because in this country, a Political Party to succeed must have the support of both the Malays and the Chinese. A Party supported by one Community and not the other is bound to fail. Only the Alliance has this support. The Malays support UMNO, the Chinese support the MCA. The PAP, UDP, DAP or PPP will never have the support of the Malays because of its policy of eroding into the position of the Malays and Natives. The Chinese will never support PMIP because of its anti-Chinese Policy. So you are left only with the Alliance. Our people of various races, Malays, Chinese in particular now that they need each other they depend on each other and this is why cooperation and harmony between them are so vital to the future, peace and happiness of our country. If there is trouble, there is racial differences, racial animosity, we all shall suffer, irrespective of what we are. The richer will suffer more than the poor but all will suffer and not one will benefit.

Our other objective must be to defend our beloved country Malaysia. At present we are faced by confrontation from Indonesia. I am so pleased that since confrontation started, our people of various races have stood solidly behind the Government. Our Armed Forces have shown courage, bravery and loyalty in the defence of our country. I have no doubt that if you all continue to stand together we shall win over this confrontation. If the ten million Malaysians are determined to live and survive as free and independent people then no force in the world can stop them.

Despite confrontation we have also to continue with economic development to give our people a fair deal, a better and higher standard of living - a fair and just society in which everyone has a rightful place. During the last five years we have done much in this field, we have developed techniques of carrying out development which are appreciated by nearly all countries of the world. Our techniques have produced results beyond our expectation. As you all can see there have been changes, progress and development in every part of our country. There is still much to be done, most of our people in the rural areas have not yet enjoyed the standard of living that we desire them to have. Some of our people in the town are not earning enough to live a decent life. Some of them have no homes of their own. It will be our duty to provide them with all this, and we are determined to do all this.

But our ultimate aim must be to create one people, one nation

out of our people of various races. We intend to do this through democratic processes upholding the principle of democracy in which we strongly believe. While we march forward towards this ultimate goal we will continue with our policy of economic development of giving fair deal to our people, of making adjustments here and there so that everyone of our citizens has a just and rightful place in our society.

Friends, once again I am very happy to be with you all today. You are the hope of our country and our people. I ask you to stand solidly behind the MCA and the Government and together all of us, our people of various races under the leadership of the Alliance will move forward from strength to strength for the peace, happiness and prosperity of our people and our beloved country, Malaysia.