

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE COMPLEX OF
UNITED MOTOR WORKS (M) SDN BERHAD AT
BATU TIGA, SELANGOR ON 22ND JANUARY,
1972

Encik Chia, Pengerusi UMW., Ahli-ahli Lembaga Pengarah, Y.B. Menteri-menteri, Saudara-saudara sekalian.

Saya sangat berbesar hati kerana dapat hadir bersama-sama pada petang ini untuk melakukan pembukaan rasmi Kompleks Kilang United Motor Works ini. Oleh itu, sukalah saya terlebih dahulu menyatakan penghargaan dan terimakasih kepada Pengerusi dan Ahli-ahli Lembaga Pengarah kerana sudi menjemput saya menghadiri upacara yang gilang-gemilang ini.

Mr Chairman,

The United Motor Works is a shining example of a successful local enterprise. From a small beginning, the Company has become a thriving family business and since going public in 1970, it has grown from strength to strength and added new dimensions to its activities. I am pleased that the company, by becoming public, has enabled greater participation by the general public in its equity and in its growth, thereby enabling it to render greater service to the nation particularly in the agriculture industry.

The assurances that your Company will play a positive and active role in future economic development is indeed commendable. Your Complex of operations and activities, geared towards repairs, service and manufacture, provide greater scope and opportunities for training on the ground. In this connection, I am pleased to see that you are already utilising your extensive facilities for such training and, at the same time, paying particular attention to meet the gap of skilled manpower by training larger numbers of Malay youths and Ex-Servicemen to fill technically skilled jobs in your organisation. It is through endeavour of this nature that the private sector can help the Government towards envolving a truly national character in the economic and business life of this country.

Mr Chairman, Gentlemen,

There is definitely considerable scope for such effort by the private sector. Soon the Government will convene the inaugural meeting of the National Advisory Council on Industrial Training, where we may together—the Government and the private sector—explore areas for joint endeavour in industrial training.

I sincerely hope the contribution of the \$100,000 to the Government which I have just received from the Chairman for the financing of scholarships for vocational and industrial training, and the accumulated experience of your firm, will give further impetus to the setting up of a joint programme. I would like to take this opportunity to express the Government's deep appreciation to United Motor Works for the generous contribution towards such a training programme.

I understand through rationalisation and poorer planning, you are deepening the process of your operations from repairs and supplies to fabrication and manufacture. You are also broadening the base of your operations into new lines of economic activity. It is worthy to note that yours will represent one of the first major efforts to launch into the manufacture of motor vehicle component parts. Indeed it is an important aspect of our industrial policy to promote greater value-added results by encouraging our industrialists to take on the additional stages of production domestically. In this way, an opportunity in one line creates new opportunities in associated lines of activity and thereby generates further opportunities for growth and employment in the economy.

Gentlemen,

As I have said on earlier occasions, the Government would like to see local entrepreneurs to expand and locate their industries in suburban and new growth centres in rural where the rate of development is not as high but where the problems of unemployment and low income are acute. This is an important strategy of the Government's New Economic Policy that job opportunities and economic prosperity must be shared equitably between those in the urban and the rural areas.

There are other aspects of corporate development which are of special significance. I am deeply impressed by the system of co-ordination and control which you have established in your network of operations. One, as mentioned by your Chairman, is the

speed with which your service and repair teams are able to respond to the call of the user anywhere in the country. The other is the momentum which you have achieved in both the expansion and diversification of your activities. These aspects of proper organisation, co-ordination, management, staff development and the conceptualisation and speedy translation of ideas into concrete projects are vital for the success of any activity, whether in the private or in the public sector.

I would like to see some of the ideas and approaches used by corporate businesses applied to some of our own public sector activities. The Implementation Co-ordination and Development Administration Unit in my Department will pay greater attention to the techniques and approaches evolved and adopted in modern business enterprises for application in the public sector.

Gentlemen,

A thriving and viable private sector is a great asset to the nation. The Government needs entrepreneurs and active participants in the private sector to complement its own role in the task of nation building in the context of sustained economic growth in a dynamic and progressive society. For in an enlightened approach towards achieving the objectives of our New Economic Policy, no one will be losers while everyone will be gainers.

In this enlightened approach, it is the duty of everyone of us, particularly those at the helm of policy and decision-making, to think and act not only for their own particular interests to the exclusion of everything else, but also in terms of the broader national interests. In this way, by helping themselves, they will also help the country to achieve its national objectives.

On its part, the Government will ensure that development will take place at a rapid pace to provide increasing employment opportunities for the growing labour force and to enable all Malaysians irrespective of race or place to participate and share in the progress of such development.

We will accelerate the opening up of new land, expand the cultivation of commercial crops, encourage greater processing activities and step up the rate of industrialisation. There will be expanding roles and opportunities for both the public and private sectors and for firms like United Motor Works to play a proper

role in our development efforts for mutual benefit. There is a saying that "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood leads on to fortune".

I hope every Malaysian, irrespective of race, will seize the opportunities and challenges open for them under the Second Malaysia Plan. There can be no success without challenges and the challenges when positively responded to, will bring handsome rewards. Most important, above all, it will help build a strong, progressive, prosperous and harmonious Malaysian nation.

Saudara-saudara sekalian,

Sekianlah saja dan sebelum menyudahi kata-kata saya sekali lagi mengucapkan tahniah dan kepujian kepada Pengasas dan Lembaga Pengarah United Motor Works atas kejayaan-kejayaan cemerlang yang dicapai oleh Syarikat ini.

Saya dengan penuh sukacitanya merasmikan pembukaan Complex Kilang UMW ini.