

**UCAPAN PERDANA MENTERI DI MAJLIS MAKAN
MALAM ANJURAN SIME DARBY BERHAD, DI NIR-
WANA BALLROOM, KUALA LUMPUR HILTON, PADA
1 DISEMBER 1979.**

Makan malam ini adalah bersejarah kepada Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun Tan Siew Sin¹ dan Ahli-Ahli Pengarah Sime Darby Berhad. Ia diadakan kerana merayakan pendaftaran Syarikat Sime Darby Berhad di Malaysia. Selama tertubuhnya Syarikat ini 69 tahun dahulu, ianya telah didaftarkan di United Kingdom. Pemindahan pendaftarannya ke Malaysia amatlah membanggakan kita semua dan kita berharap ini akan menjadi satu contoh di mana syarikat-syarikat yang lain pula akan mengikutnya.

Kepada Tun Tan Siew Sin dan Ahli-Ahli Pengarah Syarikat ini, saya mengucapkan tahniah. Saya juga berharap bahawa Syarikat ini akan memainkan peranan yang berkesan dan berfaedah kepada pembangunan negara kita.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The "homecoming" of Sime Darby is not only a cause of great satisfaction to its Chairman, Tun Tan Siew Sin, and its shareholders, but to the Government as well. I would like to congratulate Tun Tan for his foresight and initiative in persuading Sime Darby to make this decision. As he has so aptly put it, the move has finally made Sime Darby a Malaysian Group both in fact and in law. Sime Darby has finally become a naturalised Malaysian. It is now a company registered in Malaysia.

Tun Tan in his address has given us a brief history of Sime Darby. I note his justifiable sense of pride when he "rubbed in" the fact that the company was actually born in his home State of Melaka 69 years ago. His late father had always been associated with the company, and now, Tun Tan himself, is at its helm as Chairman. Knowing Tun Tan, I don't think that the directors will be encouraged to go on an eight-hour drinking spree. Tun Tan will be carried to be even after half a bottle of beer.

Sime Darby is indeed a big company. The fact that it is now registered in Malaysia is a source of great national pride to us all. As it is

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operating from the region of South East Asia, it will also make ASEAN more and better known to the outside world.

Tun Tan is a well-known public figure, especially in this country. He has wide and long experience of financial, economic, political and social matters. I welcome his policy and philosophy that a big company such as Sime Darby must not only think of profits. It also has social and moral obligations to the people of the countries in which it operates. He has very wisely said that the company must also take into account the social and economic aspirations of the people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It should be widely known by now what role the Government has assigned to the private sector. It has been stated in the Second and Third Malaysia Plans documents and the Mid-Term Reviews of those plans. I do not intend to go into details but allow me to mention these general points:

- a) A major role has been assigned to the private sector to provide the impetus to growth and to sustain the rapid rates of advancement necessary for achieving the objectives of restructuring society under the New Economic Policy.
- b) Strengthening of business confidence through the use of fiscal and monetary policies.
- c) Streamlining administrative procedures to facilitate the implementation of projects.
- d) Effective participation by Malaysians especially the Malays and other indigenous people.

The Government has put all these into effect gradually. Fiscal and monetary measures are done through the annual budget and existing laws. The 1980 Budget is a good recent example where reliefs-incentives and encouragements are given to the private sector and foreign investors.

To conclude, I would like to thank Tun Tan Siew Sin and the Board of Sime Darby for their kind invitation to my wife and I to this celebration dinner.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I sit down, may I ask you all to rise and join me in a toast to the success and prosperity of Sime Darby Berhad.