

Penyampai : TAN SRI ABDUL HALIM BIN ALI
Tajuk : THE PRESIDENT'S BANQUET CAPAM BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
Lokasi :
Tarikh : 09-09-1998

Let me first of all thank CAPAM for giving me the opportunity to say a few words at this very special function.

2. The Government and people of Malaysia feel very honoured that Malaysia has been selected to host the 1998 biennial conference of CAPAM. There are many reasons why we have agreed to host this conference. Top of the lists is to indicate our strong support and commitment to cooperation among the Commonwealth countries and more specifically, to the sharing of experience and ideas on public civil service reforms and improvement. We fully share CAPAM's vision of an efficient and dynamic public service that promotes good governance, democracy and rule of law. By hosting the conference, we are able to provide the opportunity for our senior civil servants and other public service managers to benefit from the discussion at the conference.

3. A planned and extensive programme of improvement and reform in the Public Service of Malaysia has been on the national agenda for the past two decades. There is the necessity to enhance the institutional capacity to respond to the complex and rapidly changing local and global environment. We have put in a lot of efforts to promote and sustain a climate of innovation and creativity and to continuously learn and upgrade knowledge and skills. We have developed and launched several programmes to improve the Public Service, among them: (i) Total Quality Management; that incorporate the client's charter, Quality Control circles, and upgrading counter-service ; (ii) Downsizing and rightsizing the Public Service ; (iii) Malaysia incorporated policies that seek smart and effective cooperation between the public and private sector; (iv) Upholding accountability, integrity, discipline and morality in the Public Service ; (v) Implementing ISO 9000 in the Public Service; (vi) Establishing Electronic Government; and the (vii) Performance oriented New Remuneration System.

4. Notwithstanding the substantial progress that has been made to improve the image and performance of the Public Service, a lot more have to be done in order to meet the rising expectation of the government and people. There is an endless learning process. In this regard we benefit greatly from the many publications, seminars and workshops that CAPAM had organised.

5. May I therefore take this opportunity to pay tribute to CAPAM for the outstanding work done since its inauguration five years ago. It is a matter of great pride and honour for Malaysia that among those who have contributed to CAPAM's success is my predecessor as Chief Secretary, Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji who had been responsible for the introduction of several reform programs in the Malaysian Public Service.

6. In some ways, this conference in Kuala Lumpur is a very historic one. Not only that this conference attracts the biggest number of participants, including Ministers and Chief Secretaries but it is also the first time that CAPAM will be presenting the International Innovation Award to public service organisation within the Commonwealths that have introduced outstanding innovations in administration. I wish to congratulate CAPAM for this excellent programme and hope that this award programme will spur the growth of new innovations within the Public Service of Commonwealth countries.

7. I understand that tonight's banquet will symbolically formalize the 'changing of guards' and handing over of the CAPAM Presidency from Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji to the Hon. Dr. Zola Skweyiya of South Africa. May I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Zola Skweyiya on his appointment as the new CAPAM president. With his vast experience and commitment to civil service reforms, I am confident that he and his new team of Board members will successfully lead and guide CAPAM in all its future undertakings.

8. The successful conclusion of this Conference marks yet another milestone in the forging of friendship among public officials and public administration experts within the Commonwealth. CAPAM is definitely enriched by your participation at this conference. I hope all of us would have the opportunity to meet again to continue with our dialogue to chart the way for a better public service of the future.

9. Once again on behalf of the Malaysian government I like to thank you for your presence in Kuala Lumpur and wish all foreign participants bon voyage and a safe journey home. For those not in a hurry to get home please take some time off to savour the rich sights and sounds of Malaysia and take back with you happy memories of your visit here.