

**SPEECH BY THE CHIEF MINISTER AT THE  
OPENING OF HEADQUARTERS OF THE  
RESEARCH DIVISION, MINES DEPART-  
MENT, IPOH ON 4TH MAY, 1957**

The Honourable Minister for Natural Resources and Local Government<sup>1</sup>, the Honourable the Acting Menteri Besar, Perak<sup>2</sup>, Honourable Ministers and Councillors and Ladies and Gentlemen. I thank you for your words of welcome and for the honour you have done me in inviting me today to perform the ceremony of opening the Headquarters of the Research Division here.

The Minister for Natural Resources and Local Government has emphasised the importance of this Research Division and I am glad to be able to open what I consider to be a most important section of the Department of Mines. The building itself is elegant in its design and looks the part which it is to play. Apart from developing the technique of mining, it will also attend to have question of rehabilitating mined out land. This matter has been before the Government for some time and we have at last found a way of dealing with it, that is through the Research Division.

This Research Division is the newest part of the Department of Mines and its importance would be very great indeed in Independent Malaya. It is vital the industry as a whole will develop in its efficiency so that it may continue to make its important contribution to the nation's wealth.

The continuance of mining as a flourishing industry is of the greatest importance to Malaya, and the Alliance Government will do all it can to help it flourish. In this connection a word of compliment to the miners of this country for the co-operation they have given the Government would not be out of place and on behalf of Government I would like to thank them. They have been an important force in the prosperity and development of this country and I hope that this harmonious and friendly spirit between them and the Government will continue in the

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<sup>1</sup> Encik Bahaman bin Shamsudin.

<sup>2</sup> Encik Mohamed Ghazali bin Jawi.



Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, dengan menggunakan kunci yang diperbuat daripada emas, sedang membuka pintu besar bangunan Ibu Pejabat dan Makmal Bahagian Penyelidikan, Jabatan Galian di Ipoh pada 4hb Mei, 1957

future. I would like to stress here that foreign company and capital should not be afraid as to their future as the primary concern of the Government is the well-being of the industry: so whatever people, be they foreigners or Malayans, who aim to make mining their interest will be helped along by the Government.

I do not intend to make any pronouncement as to the question of taxation or export duty on mineral neither would I or any other Minister make any categorical statement which might bind Government in the future, but I should like to assure the leaders of the mining industry here that they should have no fear as to their future or the future well-being of the industry.

Lastly, before I declare the building open, I should like to say how pleased I am that the key with which I shall unlock the doors to what I hope will be a source of new and valuable knowledge is of gold from a Malayan mine. If I may say so I consider this a happy omen.