

PRESS RELEASE:

SPEECH BY INCHE MOHD. GHAZALI ISMAIL
POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION, AT THE TELOK KURAU
SECONDARY SCHOOL 2ND ANNUAL SPEECH
& PRIZE-GIVING DAY ON SATURDAY,
4.4.1970 AT 5.00 P.M.

Mr. Principal, Staff and Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am privileged to have been invited here today to address you on the occasion of your school's 2nd Annual Speech and Prize-Giving Day. An event of this nature should provide you with an occasion for joy, for today, the services that you have rendered to your school will be appropriately recognised and for those whose academic achievements have been above the norm, suitable and tangible cognizance will also be given.

Historical contingencies have made our State what it is today - a multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-cultural society. In the context of a nation that possesses multi-farious facets of beliefs, aspirations and ambitions, diverging interpretations of the various aspects of our life must be accepted as a feature of the political, economic and cultural landscape of our nation. This acceptance is basic and makes necessary the understanding of the bewildering complexities that face us and which have made the task of governing such a nation a difficult one; but at the same time it provides stimulating challenge to the ingenuity of the government. ours has never been an easy task because we are realistic in our diagnosis of the tribulations that face us. We realise that there is n't and cannot be any magic formula that can solve once and for all the problems that beset our State, but we do know that they must be solved for the alternatives that face us, if we fail in our task, are too grim to be dwelt upon at length. The choice before us is clear and unequivocal - a government based on the continuing consent and wishes of our people for order, peace, security and progress for all irrespective of their race, colour or creed - or chaos and destruction.

In as far as I am able to ascertain, no more effective instrument can be placed in our hands than an educational system that deliberately encourages and fosters the growth of the democratic principles. Our future lies in the proper and careful handling of the young in our schools today. Free and compulsory education is not sufficient; it must be suited to the requirements of social democracy. It must produce thinking human beings, men and women who will safeguard the nation at all cost, who will participate intelligently in

the affairs of government; citizens who, though critical of governments, are at the same time tolerant of views that diverge from their own and who will not abuse public power in favour of sectional interest. It must produce citizens who will rise above any petty parochialism and racial sentiments and who are not afraid to meet the challenges of the times. In our pursuit of this ideal society we need proper organisation to ensure that we have a constant supply of an effective core of potential leaders. We need to educate our pupils to a sense of their common destiny and interest and to a commitment of their public duty. We have to think out and to plan, not only what the best interests of our society are at any given time, but also how best we can carry these interests to our mutual benefit. The successful performance of these varied functions depends upon certain, clearly defined qualities. We need a will that is orientated to a high purpose and is dedicated to the pursuits of excellence. We need to delineate these purposes clearly and once we have done so, we will pursue them courageously. We need citizens who are honest, self-reliant and have a high degree of the sense of responsibility; and to the extent that we are able to produce these citizens from our schools, do we contribute to the urgent and sacred task of nation-building. I trust that my faith is not misplaced if I say that all of you here, teachers and educationists, are dedicated to the prosecution of social democratic ideals that will ensure our survival in the future as a viable economic and national entity.
