

20

SPEECH BY THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND
FISHERIES, TAN SRI DATUK HAJI MOHD. GHAZALI BIN
HAJI JAWI, AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASEAN
PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, ON
25TH. SEPTEMBER, 1972, AT 9.00 A.M., TO BE HELD
IN CONFERENCE ROOM NO.1, PARLIAMENT HOUSE,
KUALA LUMPUR.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia
it is indeed my pleasure to welcome you to this Annual Meeting
of the ASEAN Permanent Committee on Food and Agriculture.
Malaysia is indeed proud to be the host of the ASEAN Permanent
Committee on Food and Agriculture which has moved here from
Indonesia after the last ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Singapore.
As Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Malaysia, I have
always followed closely the developments and progress of the
ASEAN Permanent Committee on Food and Agriculture and I am
happy to say that with the location of the Permanent Committee
in Kuala Lumpur, I hope to be able to associate myself much
closer with the important work being undertaken by this
Permanent Committee.

The need for regional cooperation and collaboration is an important element in the strategy for accelerating the economic growth of the developing countries of South East Asia. ASEAN has grown from strength to strength, year by year and such strengthening I can only attribute to the important undertakings by the various Permanent Committees of ASEAN. Our countries are basically agricultural countries responsible for producing a wide variety of agricultural commodities on a scale of global significance. Our efforts towards economic development revolve around the greater exploitation of these primary commodities. In view of these particular circumstances the ASEAN Permanent Committee on Food and Agriculture has a great role to play in furthering cooperation and collaboration in the planning and harmonisation of the various facets of agricultural development in the ASEAN countries.

This Permanent Committee was formerly known as the Permanent Committee on Food Production and Supply including Fisheries but this name has been changed to the ASEAN Permanent Committee on Food and Agriculture with effect from April 1972. The former name of this Permanent Committee was perhaps

restrictive in connotation. This restriction in the functioning of this ASEAN Permanent Committee has been eradicated by renaming it ASEAN Permanent Committee on Food and Agriculture. Gentlemen, the change in name implies an escalation of your activities and the scope by your deliberations. I hope you will utilise this greater freedom that has been given you to achieve far greater results in the context of ASEAN and its guiding spirit.

The ASEAN Permanent Committee on Food Supply including Fisheries was established on August 7, 1968. At its inception this Permanent Committee gave importance and priority to the problems of food production and supply. Nevertheless, food production and supply cannot be easily separated from other sectors of agricultural development and hence it was seen fit to rename this Permanent Committee. However, I feel that food production must remain a primary item of consideration of the ASEAN Permanent Committee on Food and Agriculture. At the 5th ASEAN Ministerial meeting in April 1972 I observed that a recommendation was approved that animal husbandry be a distinct and primary activity of the Permanent

Committee on Food and Agriculture. Malaysia is at the moment emphasising an accelerated programme of livestock development, with the realisation that the promotion for better diets must be a combined effort covering not only the consumption of food crops but also proteins. In this particular aspect of food production I believe that there is great scope for regional cooperation within the ASEAN region.

Agricultural development, improvement of agricultural technology and research is only the means to an end. The objective of all our efforts is the increased production of nutritious food products, the promotion of better diets and the overall change of the socio-economic situation of the agricultural sector of our countries. I hope that in their deliberations, distinguished delegates will not overlook this important consideration. In the forthcoming meeting I hope that delegates will set about to achieve the full realisation of the objectives of this ASEAN Permanent Committee and that they will continue the good work that has been carried out by this Committee over the past four years. I further hope that this meeting will bring about greater intensification in

the field of regional cooperation and the birth of new ideas and means to further enhance the objectives governing the role of the ASEAN Permanent Committee on Food and Agriculture.

On behalf of the peoples of Malaysia I would like to once again extend our most cordial welcome to distinguished delegates and take this opportunity to wish you a successful meeting in an atmosphere of cordiality and harmony and that delegates will feel themselves at home and among friends during the period of their short stay in Malaysia.

Thank you.

/sh.