

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY
YB SENATOR TAN SRI AMIRSHAM A. AZIZ
AT THE MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC
ACCOUNTANTS (MICPA) ANNUAL DINNER ON
19 JUNE 2009, KUALA LUMPUR

Y.B. Dato' Chor Chee Heung
Deputy Finance Minister;

Y.Bhg. Dato' Nordin Baharuddin,
President of MICPA;

Members of MICPA;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Good evening;

In preparing to attend this evening's awards ceremony, two thoughts crossed my mind. The first was the significance of this gathering this year in light of the turmoil of the financial markets and global economic crisis.

Secondly, how changes in accounting rules may have played a part in exacerbating the present crisis and how we can draw valuable lessons which we can all learn from to better manage our economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am deeply humbled by the great honour accorded to me by MICPA. When I was first told about the Award, I wondered if this meant that I had spent too much of my lifetime serving the community and the country as a banker, hence the recognition. My wife and children never failed to point out to me that I spent more time building up my career than with my own family. My answer to them was that my career is indeed my first love.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The training and exposure that I have acquired as an accountant in the early 1970s has given me the opportunity to start my career in banking. It was with Maybank that I was privileged to develop personally, build knowledge and skills.

Being trained as an accountant, I was able to lead my fellow colleagues in Maybank during a period of tremendous growth in the financial services industry and the reshaping of the industry post the financial crisis of '97 in terms of domestic consolidation and the implementation of the Financial Sector Masterplan. I spent a total of 31 years with Maybank, an entire career lifetime.

However, there is a saying that when you are able to reflect and recollect much that has happened over the years, then it is probably the right time to leave and look for new horizons. So I did when I planned for my retirement in June 2008. Then as you all know, things did not go as planned.

I was thrust with a new challenge of serving the Government, again a privilege which I had never anticipated to be given to me. It was an experience, one that has proved to be valuable in terms of gaining new insight and perspectives on life. But as you know, accountants do not necessarily make good politicians. In accounting, every transaction is either a debit or credit but in politics, it can be both a debit and a credit.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I stand here tonight to accept this Award, and to MICPA, let me say Thank you for the honour and recognition.