

New Year Message on 30th December, 1960

The coming New Year is a decisive and important one for the future of the Federation of Malaya because this year will see the active implementation of our top priority policy of rural development.

We have already finished the first phase, which may be described as enunciating the role of the Government, both at the Federal and State levels. That role was to build the foundations and to provide the framework for success.

The first phase last year involved deciding the policy, carrying out the basic planning, collecting all the relevant data and co-ordinating the methods and procedure to be adopted.

In this New Year we will enter the essential second phase in which the people themselves are brought actively into the scheme and into full understanding of the role they can play. In a democracy such as ours it is the duty of the Government to give the lead, but the fruition of the policy must spring from the initiative and effort of the people.

The whole success of the rural development plan in Malaya consists of welding the finance, resources and material which the Government can provide with the active work and voluntary support which the people can give. In the year ahead, therefore, the people in the rural areas are being asked to build on the foundations and to fill in the framework we have effected.

By all the signs of interest shown in the past year we are expecting a most enthusiastic response.

The Government does not want the people to expect it to do everything for them; it wants to create among the people a sense of accomplishment, because everyone knows there is always much greater pleasure and pride to be derived from self-effort.

Therefore, let this New Year be one of tremendous co-operation among all the people, both in the active sense that men and women, youths and girls are helping in projects in their rural areas, and in the moral sense that there is general understanding among the people in the urban areas that this programme of raising the levels of living and opportunity in the Kampong' and new village areas and the countryside as a whole is one which will benefit not only the ra'ayat but the whole nation.

In fact, I would not hesitate to say that the future progress of the Federation of Malaya depends on this great effort we are undertaking as a nation on a national scale.

I hope, therefore, that the New Year will bring to all Malaysians new happiness and new prosperity, the direct results of our own skill and efforts.

Kuala Lumpur,  
30th December, 1960.