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SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
TO THE CONFERENCE OF ALL ALLIANCE-
CONTROLLED LOCAL COUNCILS' CHAIRMEN
AT THE M.C.A. HEADQUARTERS AT KUALA
LUMPUR ON 2ND OCTOBER, 1962

Hon'ble Mr Tan Siew Sin,¹ Hon'ble, etc.

I am very glad indeed to have the opportunity and the honour of addressing this Conference of Chairmen of Local Councils throughout the Country.

Perhaps, before I speak to you I should apologise to my ministerial colleague, Mr Tan Siew Sin, for causing him and the treasury embarrassment by pushing our National Development Programme ahead so fast that he, as the Minister of Finance, feels embarrassed.

We are lucky, both my Cabinet colleagues, and the Country as a whole, in having such an efficient and sound Finance Minister like Mr Tan Siew Sin, who is perhaps the best custodian of our National finances we could have because in spite of the pressure that I myself and other Ministers concerned with National Development, put on him in demanding more and more money, he is loyal to his main duty, as Minister of Finance, which is to ensure that our Country does not run into debt and that our National expenditure is kept within the limits of our National revenue.

Although Mr Tan Siew Sin does not smoke either cigarettes or a pipe, he reminds me very much of a story I heard of the perfect Minister of Finance in another country.

Three Ministers were travelling in a railway train and they only had one match left.

One Minister wanted to light his cigarette, another Minister wanted to light a pipe and the third Minister, the Minister of Finance, wanted to light a cigar.

So they struck their last match.

¹ **Minister of Finance.**

The first Minister took out a dollar, folded it, lit it with the match and then lit his cigarette.

The second Minister took out a five dollar note, lit it from a burning match and then proceeded to light his pipe.

The third Minister, the Finance Minister, being more clever and more knowledgeable in money matters in the meantime took out his cheque book, wrote a cheque for a thousand dollars and then lit it with the burning match and used it in order to light his cigar.

That story, Gentlemen, shows you how clever Finance Ministers can be at out-doing other Ministers and I may tell you that Mr Tan Siew Sin, as Minister of Finance, is no exception.

I can now, having been given the financial "green light" by my ministerial colleague, talk to you freely about Development in general and Development of your Local Council Areas in particular.

Firstly, I should like to say that when we launched our National Rural Development Programme in 1960, it was not, and I say this categorically, our Government's intention to exclude Local Council Areas and New Villages but because Local Councils were autonomous and had a certain amount of independence, a certain amount of their own funds and grants-in-aid from Government, I felt at the time, it was much better for them to be left entirely to their own initiative.

However, as events have shown us, the pace of Development has been going so fast that it is only right that Local Councils be brought more closely into the fast flowing stream of our National Development Programme.

In order to give new impetus to the Development of Local Council Areas and New Villages, I have instructed that a special page for you be prepared and included in the Red Book.

The object of this is that we take stock and carry out a reassessment of your Development requirements so that you are brought more closely into the day-to-day implementation of our National Development progress.

I know that in the past most Local Council Areas and New Villages have been given most of the amenities essential to your daily life such as internal roads, electricity, schools and other such things.

I know also that the most crying demand amongst the inhabitants of your villages is sufficient land to give each family an economic livelihood.

I also know that during the Emergency when New Villages were sited they were done so in rather a hurry and there was not time to give sufficient thought to planning and siting in places which would afford sufficient land for the inhabitants to be given economic holdings for cultivation.

Therefore this problem of shortage of land around your areas cannot be treated as a general problem to which we here in the Federal Capital can give you the correct solution over-night.

It is a problem which can, and which will be solved, by carrying out a detailed investigation of the needs and requirements of each and every New Village or each and every Local Council, differing from place to place, depending on its location, depending on the factors and merits, the occupation and activities, of its inhabitants of each New Village in each separate case.

I understand that you have all been given draft copies of this page in the Red Book.

So there is no need for me to go into detail in explaining it but I would like to say one thing which is very important; it is for your Local Councils to consider carefully the preparation of your own Plan and then, when prepared in outline, your District Rural Development Committee will hold joint meeting with you and consider and examine your proposals.

It is up to you therefore to make sensible and sound proposals for Development; proposals which are of economic value and which will bring benefit to the livelihood of the people living in your area.

Don't ask for the impossible because the Alliance Government can do most things but one thing it cannot do is to achieve the impossible.

So therefore I ask you when you consider your Plan, be critical yourselves and make sure that every suggestion for Development is practicable and sensible.

And if you do this I can assure you that you will get the utmost support from the technical and administrative Officers in your District towards the implementation of your proposals.

There is one thing in particular which I would be grateful if you would remember, and not only remember, but also stress and continue to stress when you return to your own Local Councils after this Conference and that is this: that we already in Malaya in the short time since our Independence, have made considerable strides in Development and have been praised throughout the World for the progress we have achieved as an independent, democratic and stable Nation.

If we are to continue to progress and to prosper we cannot do so merely by Government planning and Government action alone.

Our future and the future of our children and our grandchildren depends on each and everyone of us, citizens of Malaya, giving of his best in his every day task.

And therefore much more important than Government spending on Development, much more important than the funds which come out of the National Treasury, much more important than all these things is something which money cannot buy; something which is not controlled by the Minister of Finance or by any other Minister; something which is within our own power to spend as freely as we like without any restriction of Treasury red-tape; something which is very simple but nevertheless important—the spirit of self-help.

I hope therefore that in launching this new Plan for the Development of your Local Council Area, you will go back to your various areas and sow the seeds of this spirit, because it is on the correct use of this spirit that the future prosperity and progress of our Country, Malaya, can be, and will be assured.

Lastly, Gentlemen, I should like to tell you that there are two words which echo in the Conference Halls and Parliaments, both national and international throughout the World.

Two words which summarise the Aim of the Government of every Country in the World, both the developed and the developing countries wherever they may be.

That Aim is Economic Stability.

I need not explain the detail of what Economic Stability means because you all know, but one thing I might well explain is that the first essential in achieving and maintaining Economic Stability is the firm foundation of a Political Stability and it is this foundation of political Stability which we, the Alliance Government, can offer not only to Malaya, but also to MALAYSIA!



**Tun Abdul Razak bin Hussein sedang berucap kepada Penyelia-penyelia Kelas Dewasa
di Bilik Gerakan Negara, Kuala Lumpur pada 26hb Oktober, 1962,
(Gambar The New Straits Time Press)**