

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON HEADS
S.49 TO S.53 AND HEADS S.65Q, S.67H AND S.67P IN
THE DEWAN RAKYAT ON 8TH JANUARY, 1964

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, Sir, I wish to explain Heads S.49 to S.53 and Heads S.65Q, S.67H and S.67P together.

Sir, Honourable Members will observe that the 1964 expenditure under this Ministry of Rural Development proper shows a reduction of \$877,061 as compared to the 1963 expenditure. The decrease is due partly to the transfer of Games Department from my Ministry to the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives and also partly to a big reduction of Special Expenditure under Adult Education.

Now, Sir, under the Adult Education Division a sum of \$9,020,350 is required to meet expenses for 1964. In the last two years, this Division has played an extremely important role in Rural Development. The ultimate object of these Adult Education Classes is to produce what we call, functional literates. It is the intention of this Division to make the rural people know their rights and their responsibilities as useful citizens of this country, and to make them self-reliant, as well as to instil in them a sense of national unity and patriotism.

Under Personal Emoluments, there is a decrease of \$35,470. This is because of the reduction in three posts which are no longer required. The post of Training Officer for Religious Instruction is intended for liaison work between this Ministry and the State Governments. This officer will also advise on appropriate methods of instruction to be given in the Adult Education Classes. The two other posts are: one Field Officer and one Cine-Operator/Driver. These posts are meant for the additional mobile unit in 1964. The three mobile units now in operation are found to be inadequate to cope with the required volume of work. Briefly, the duties of the Information Units are to encourage the rural people, especially the rural illiterates, to join the Adult Education Classes and to mobilise the spirit and energy of the rural people, so that they could better their own living, know their responsibility towards their country, and stand on their own feet as self-reliant citizens.

Under Other Charges Annually Recurrent, it will be found that there is a decrease in the Estimates for 1964 by \$97,796. This is due to the reduction in the number of classes in 1963 which in turn is due to the

fact that a number of classes have been combined together as one class in order to achieve economy.

The Other Charges Special Expenditure also shows a decrease of \$722,209. This is due to reduction in the purchase of textbooks and follow-up materials. From the above figures, it will be noticed that there is an overall reduction of \$857,475 in the estimate for 1964 under this Division.

As regards Head S.50 — Pesuruhjaya Tanah — I wish to explain to the House that the 1964 Estimates of this Department provide for an expenditure of \$601,728, as against a provision of \$605,987 in 1963. This represents a decrease of about \$4,259 which is due to adjustment of the salaries of the officers working in this Department. About 70.3 per cent of the total amount is to meet expenditure on the Kelantan and Perlis Land Settlement work. The Federal Government has agreed earlier to assist the Kelantan Government in carrying out the work of surveying all the lands in Kelantan and issuing fresh Document of Titles after settling and determining the claims of the owners. Similarly in Perlis the work of replacing old titles with new ones is also being carried out by the Federal Government

The Land Settlement work in Kelantan and Perlis is expected to continue for a number of years and the cost of completing this work will have to be provided for by the Federal Government annually.

I now refer to Head S.51 — Geological Survey. The overall total expenditure for this Department shows an increase of 3.6 per cent. The figure does not fully reflect the large range of responsibilities now borne by the Department of Geological Survey whose activities are all important in utilisation of mineral resources.

I would like to inform the House that the Department has completed a reconnaissance survey of the whole country, the Malay Peninsula, and is at present continuing its long term and systematic basic mapping programme on the geology and mineral resources of our country.

It is the duty of this Department to carry out mineral clearance surveys before any large land schemes are started, so as to ensure that mineral resources are not blanketed by agricultural and other developments. During the first three-quarters of the year mineral clearance certificates have been issued jointly by the Geological Survey and the Department of Mines over 25 areas aggregating 96, 737 acres.

In this connection, Sir, I also wish to invite Honourable Members' attention to the work of the Mineral Investigation Drilling Unit, operated jointly by the Geological Survey and the Department of Mines. This is currently working to evaluate by scout prospecting the mineral potentialities of various Malay Reservations throughout the country. In the States of Perak, Selangor and Pahang the Unit has succeeded in scout prospecting during three quarters of this year 13,967 acres as compared with the 1962 total of 12,855 acres.

I now go to Head 52 — Mines. The Estimates of this Department provide for a small overall increase in gross expenditure from \$1,149,976 in 1963 to \$1,166,475 in 1964. Most of this increase is the result of normal increments to salary and of the need to expand the activities of the Research Division so as to produce improved service to the mining industry.

I would also explain that the Department of Mines controls and supervises prospecting and mining operations, and it is responsible for the enforcement of the mining laws and regulations. The Research Division of this Department undertakes research on and improvement to methods of mining and mineral dressing. It also investigates ore reserves in association with the Geological Survey Department.

Now, Honourable Members are aware that tin, our principle mineral product will for many years continue to be one of the main pillars of our economy. I am happy to report that production in 1963 is expected to exceed that of 1962 by a modest 2 per cent to 3 per cent.

Now, Sir, I come to Head S.53, Survey Department, and I would like to inform the House that the Survey Department had made a rapid expansion during the period of 1960/1962 in order to cope with the vast influx of land development schemes under the Second Five-Year Development Plan. This has resulted in the increase of its technicians by 250. The overall increase of \$259,968 is due mainly to revision of salaries of these technicians and also of junior technicians.

There is a reduction of \$58,170 under Other Charges Annually Recurrent. This is due to the fact that this Department has reached its maximum development on the title survey side and so no increase in field party strength has been planned for 1964.

There is only one sub-head under Special Expenditure showing an increase of \$35,380, that is, Sub-head 13 — Kereta Motor. The increase is due to the proposal to purchase four Land Rovers to replace the old ones.

Sir, with regard to Head S.56Q, Survey, I do not wish to say much, but Honourable Members will note that the provision is required for the administrative expenses of the Survey Department in Singapore. However, I wish to draw the attention of the House to Items (3) and (4) of Sub-head 2, under Other Charges Annually Recurrent. The provisions for these items are only needed in 1964, because in subsequent years the services under these two items would be provided for by the Head Office in Kuala Lumpur.

I also wish to explain that the Survey Department in Singapore is engaged in routine sub-division and revenue work and production of land titles.

I now turn to Head S.67H – Mines. Honourable Members will note that as from Malaysia Day the administration of the Mining Ordinance of Sarawak has become the responsibility of the Federal Department of Mines. The sum required under this Head is intended to cover the administrative expenses and personal emoluments and other items of Other Charges Annually Recurrent. With regard to the \$50,000 under Sub-head 4, I wish to inform the House that this provision is required in connection with the operation of a Diamond Drill employed in the prospecting of gold deposits at Bau as well as in connection with testing of other known mineral occurrences in Sarawak. This item was previously shown under Geological Survey (Borneo Region).

With regard to Head S.67P there is very little that I can elaborate in explaining these Estimates. They are the Federal element of expenditure for the Regional Geological Survey Offices of Sabah and Sarawak and merely show the personal emoluments of the staff required to implement the Geological Services in these two territories together with other items of Annual Recurrent Expenditure.

Sir, I beg to move.