

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER COMMEMORATING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MALAYSIA ON 28TH AUGUST, 1965

The Second Anniversary of the birth of Malaysia as a nation will go down in history as a most eventful and unforgettable year. When Malaysia was established two years ago, Indonesia decided to confront us politically, economically and militarily, however, due to the support and loyalty of our people, with the help of our friends in the commonwealth, we have been able to contain Indonesian confrontation in its many manifestations.

However, just a little more than three weeks ago, it was found necessary by both the Central Government and the Singapore Government that Singapore should be separated from the rest of Malaysia. It was a sad and heartbreaking decision, but the leaders of the two countries were convinced that this was the only solution in the circumstances. Since the establishment of Malaysia it was found that Singapore could not fit in into the Federation and the Central Government and the Government of Singapore, due to many reasons have found it impossible to work together. Lately there was almost a deadlock and what is more the differences between the political leaders in Singapore and in Kuala Lumpur have brought racial tension. The leaders of the PAP Government in Singapore had accused the Central Government of favouring one race against another and that it was a Malay-dominated Government. These unfounded criticisms spread throughout the country and overseas have led to racial tension and racial troubles. The separation of Singapore may be a sad event but we should be happy in the thought that both the leaders of the Alliance Government and the PAP Government of Singapore have pledged to work together closely on all matters affecting the people of the two territories in particular defence, security, commerce and industry. The two territories are linked together so closely that it is desirable that the two Governments should work together closely for the good of their respective people.

As far as the Alliance Governments is concerned, we will do everything possible to work together with the Singapore Government. We in the Alliance Government, in our concept of Malaysia have always believed in the unity of our people of various races. Though Singapore is separated from the rest of Malaysia our concept of Malaysia has not changed. We shall continue to uphold the principles of parliamentary democracy and of maintaining harmony and goodwill among our people so that they will ultimately become members of one nation

rather than of different communities. Our ultimate aim is clear, that is the formation of a united Malaysian nation but this must necessarily take time. As we move along the road of nationhood we will have to make adjustments and re-adjustments in order that our people of various races should have a rightful place in our society. We know that a large section of our people are economically backward and it is our determination to do everything possible to help them. The peoples of Sabah and Sarawak who have joined Malaysia out of their own free will need assistance and we shall do everything possible to provide them with the benefits of independence. Our Constitution while guaranteeing the rights of all our citizens provide; a special position for the natives i.e. the Ibans, the Dayaks, Muruts, Kadazans, Malays, and others. They all need special treatment in order to be on equal footing with the other races who are economically more advanced.

In celebrating our Second Anniversary, let us all, Malaysians of all races, pledge ourselves to do all that we can to strengthen the harmony and understanding among our people, to minimise racial differences and to talk of things that would bind us together more closely. Let us make all efforts to eradicate any differences or imbalances which could cause suspicion or friction among our people. Let us move forward steadily and surely on the road to true unity of our people.

Indonesia has proclaimed that she will continue with her confrontation and aggression against both Malaysia and Singapore. We are therefore determined to do everything possible to defend ourselves, however, despite confrontation the Alliance Government has decided to maintain the tempo of development we are about to complete. With the formulation of our First Malaysia Development Plan, which will be launched at the beginning of 1966, the level of expenditure in this plan would be higher than in the previous plan and it is our intention to provide our people with greater development and higher standard of living. Our First Malaysia Plan will lay emphasis on agricultural diversification, economic upliftment of the rural people and construction of houses in the urban areas. We also intend to give greater attention to Sabah and Sarawak whose people, particularly the natives required urgently, assistance and the provision and amenities of life and assistance in raising their standard of living.

We are confident that Malaysia will continue to move forward in strength and in unity. For the last two years we have been able to contain threats to our existence from within and without. We are faced with Indonesian aggression as well as internal threat of Communist subversion. But if our people always continue to stand together solidly in support of the Government, we shall overcome this triumphantly in

the end. However, most important of all, the people of Malaysia of all races must continue to live together in peace and harmony. We must resist racial extremism in whatever form. We must avoid bringing up issues which could heighten racial tension and differences. I consider that people who indulge in sensitive racial issues are working against the true interest of Malaysia and of our people. The Alliance Government have ruled this country for 10 years and have been able to maintain racial balance. We have been fair and just to all sections of our people. We have a Constitution that protects the rights of all *citizens* and a Constitution based on principles of freedom, justice and fair play. Because of all these, Malaysia has been able to forge ahead with solid and steady progress. Our years of independence have seen tangible developments at home and the steady rise of our prestige abroad. In International field we believe in friendship with all nations, particularly those within the Afro-Asian region. We have geared our policies towards greater cooperation with newly emergent nations of Asia and Africa. We are pleased to say that our friends in Asia and Africa have come to know us more closely.

Our young nation is therefore gaining in strength day by day and cooperation and friendship with other countries of the world. I have no doubt that with greater loyalty and dedication from all loyal citizens of Malaysia, our country will continue to progress and to prosper. I wish you all Malaysians good fortune in the third year of our independence.