

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OVER
RADIO MALAYSIA, SABAH, JESSELTON, ON 10TH
SEPTEMBER, 1965

As you already know, since my arrival in Sabah last Sunday, I have been on the move non-stop visiting as many towns and villages as possible to explain the present position of Malaysia since the declaration of the separate independence of Singapore. In actual fact there is no change in the concept and position of Malaysia. Malaysia still exists. Malaysia is still a horizon of hope and prosperity.

However, before my coming to Sabah I was informed — perhaps misinformed — that there were doubts in the minds of the people of Sabah — doubts about the future of Malaysia and doubts whether Malaysia is still a viable an independent nation. These doubts were born from false rumours from trouble makers and from other people who for their own personal gain tried to "cash-in" on the crisis which they thought had been created by the separation of Singapore. However, now what I have seen and heard for myself, now that I have met and talked to so many hundreds people of Sabah and I find — and my findings are based on hard facts - that in reality the feeling of the great majority of the people of Sabah is that they not only stand by Malaysia and the concept of Malaysia but also — since the separation of Singapore — have renewed and redoubled their support and are determined as all true Malaysians are to be united together and to move forward towards the creation of an even happy and prosperous Malaysia. I have also found that the doubters and those who wish to destroy our unity are very few in number and are nothing more than (political) opportunists who can in no way be regarded as loyal to our country but who could — if they persist in trying to mislead our people - destroy the harmony of our unity. They are not only working against the true interests of Malaysia but, knowingly or otherwise, actually helping our enemies.

The Central Government is convinced that a time of national crisis, such as we are now passing through when on the one hand we face aggression from across our borders and on the other are faced with subversion and destruction from within, is not a time for politicking, is not time for personal political gain; it is not even a time at which we should think of ourselves. This is a time for sincere and honest loyalty. This is a time to unite and in uniting to understand and in understanding to make sure that all those with whom we come into daily contact - whether they be in urban areas or in remote villages - also understand the true position.

And the true position is this. The separation of Singapore from Malaysia is neither the end of the world for us nor is it the end of Malaysia. It is in fact the beginning of the beginning. The position which arose with Singapore and Singapore's incompatibility with the rest of Malaysia is quite unrelated to the position of both Sabah and Sarawak. Already since the 9th of last month when the decision and declaration — agreed to by both the Singapore and the Central Government — for Singapore to leave Malaysia was made public there has been a tremendous improvement in all our relationships and in all our activities which has bound us closely together as two separate nations, Singapore and Malaysia.

If Singapore had remained in Malaysia with tempers high and with feelings and jealousy increasing in tempo from day to day — the result would have been detrimental to the future of Malaysia and to the concept which is the very foundation of Malaysia — the concept of communal harmony — this would have been lost for ever. As it is, Singapore and Malaysia were like a couple of Siamese twins and after the delicate but successful operation of separation both these twins are now standing on their feet and beginning to walk together towards a more prosperous and certainly a more happy future.

There is one doubt I would like clearly to dispel and that is that for Sabah and Sarawak Malaysia means government and control by the Central Government in Kuala Lumpur. This is not so. We are — as every one knows — a federation of States or indeed it would be more true to say a partnership, the coming together of individual states each with its own State Government running and administering its own area at the centre a Federal Government composed of representatives of all the constituent states whose task is not to direct with dictatorial control but rather to co-operate, co-ordinate and give the maximum help to each individual state within the Federation.

As I have said many times before, and will repeat now, the first and foremost aim of the Central Government is to do everything possible towards the development and benefit of the peoples of Sabah and Sarawak. Next year, 1966, we launch the First Malaysia Five Year Plan which is a blue-print for progress and is a plan of action for improvement of the standard of living and way of life of all Malaysians and I can assure you that this plan is designed for the best benefits we can give to the people of Sabah dan Sarawak within the bounds of our budget

Ladies and gentlemen, on the subject of development I would like to say that the expenditure of Government funds in itself does not produce development. The essential of sound development apart from

funds is not only to have a good practical economic development plan but also to have the technical, professional and administrative ability to implement that plan. With the setting up of Malaysia and the working out of the practical mechanics of the relationship between the Central Government and the Government of Sabah and Sarawak there have been what I might call administrative teething troubles. From time to time there have been delays in communications and this has resulted in occasional frustration both in State Headquarters, and at Federal Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

There has however been a steady improvement in the administrative machinery, but so that there will be even greater improvement, greater co-ordination and greater cooperation, I propose sometime later this year to hold either in Jesselton or Kuching or perhaps in Kuala Lumpur a Malaysia Government Seminar lasting several days. At this seminar each one of us who has the responsibility of administering the Government will be able to meet and discuss with our counterparts any problems we may have connected with our work and to discuss, suggest and devise ways and means whereby we can speed up and streamline the whole machinery of Government. We shall place particular emphasis on the development programme machinery so that the people of Sabah and Sarawak — no matter whether they live in urban areas or in remote rural areas — will get the best service and the quickest service that we as true Malaysians can give to our fellow Malaysians.

I have been extremely happy with my visit and I would like to thank all those who have helped to make the visit so pleasant and useful. I am grateful to community leaders at the various places I visited for the way they received me. I wish the people of Sabah good fortune and Berjaya Malaysia.