

**UCAPAN Y.A.B. TIMBALAN PERDANA MENTERI
DI MESYUARAT MENUBUHKAN JAWATANKUASA GERAKAN
MAJU (PERINGKAT KEBANGSAAN) DI BILIK
GERAKAN KEBANGSAAN, KUALA LUMPUR
PADA JANUARI 1967**

Saya ucapkan terima kasih kepada tuan-tuan yang telah sanggup berkhidmat di dalam Jawatankuasa Gerakan MAJU Peringkat Kebangsaan ini, terutama kepada Dr. Abdullah Sedky (F.A.O).

Selain daripada ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa ini saya telah meminta hadir di sini Ketua-ketua Jabatan yang lain yang ada hubungan dengan perkara pembangunan masyarakat supaya mereka dapat mengikuti perkembangan-perkembangan yang saya harapkan mengenai Gerakan MAJU yang telah saya lancarkan 9 bulan yang lalu

I learn that as a result of this orientation many officers have shown greater enthusiasm in helping the people to help improve themselves. In their enthusiasm these officers have made several useful suggestions concerning our Gerakan MAJU programmes. Some have even suggested that there should be more balanced representation in the membership of Village Development Committees.

On this last point I would like to clarify that there should be a gradual change of membership of these Committees so that representatives from the various Government sponsored organisations at Village or Mukim Level such as the Farmers' Association, W.I., Youth Clubs can sit as members of these Committees. How gradual this change is to be effected will be the discretion of the Menteri Besar or Chief Minister concerned.

In our Red Books are embodied the hopes and aspirations of our people in the projects proposed by them for their own improvements. The Red Books were produced after taking into consideration the conditions of our country, its social structure and our administrative system.

Again, in formulating our Gerakan MAJU programmes we take into consideration the "felt needs" of the people and the method we use is one well suited to our own conditions. We integrate our Community Development programmes within the framework of the overall development programme.

The Alliance Government has no such bad intentions for the people as has been proved by the success of many of its Rural

Development schemes. Nor has it the intention of repeating the "sandiwara" of the Colonial days when our traditional leaders were given the role of "seri-panggung" or prima donna in a stage-play so cleverly directed by our Colonial masters. We are reminded of such incidents of play-acting because they reacted on our own people and had adverse effects on them. The people, as audience, and our traditional leaders as sectors, consciously absorbed all the attractions of the stage-plays, little knowing that they were victims of a bigger scheme of things which was formulated by our Colonial masters. Not only were they made unconscious of the drain of the nations' wealth but the traditional leaders were obsessed by other trifles and could do little to ameliorate the difficulties of the people. As a result we inherit much of the social injustice as part of what is universally known as independence.

The Alliance Government is not going to repeat such incidents. It is, in all sincerity and purpose, determined to weild the partnership between the Government and the people even more closely. Knowing the handicaps suffered by our people at Merdeka time the Government did not immediately insist that they should exert themselves in implementing our 2nd. Five Year Development Plan. That was why the Government took upon itself the task of providing the basic things for a sound economic infra-structure for the development of the country as illustrated in and implemented under Phase I described earlier by me.

As you are aware no one, apart from cynics and hard-headed opposition members, can deny that the Alliance Government had done and achieved substantial progress in developing this country of ours – Despite these success we are determined to do very much more and the establishment of your committee is an important aspect of that process.

I have formed this Committee because I know that there are certain aspects of the country's development that have to be looked into from a different perspective. I refer to the areas of social development, involving the livelihood of our people, the development of which overlaps in (or even not touched upon by) the jurisdiction of a number of Ministries, Government Departments and agencies. You have been given your terms of reference and you will note that your role covers a dimension which strikers the root of human existence, namely our peoples' own ability and initiative to better themselves in a highly competitive world full of stresses and strains of the modern to which most of them have to re-adjust or change from their own under-developed societies. I ask you to serve, to improve this area of human development, not only their material advancement but also their spiritual progress.

We know there are, in the rural areas many of our people who, despite their low standard of living, still like to take life quite easily. They like to take things, however difficult, in their own strides. They like to regard what little things they own or what small income they receive as "good enough" for them. We must try to make them think so as to improve. What is good enough to them should be made good enough only as a start for the better and that it is much better for them to earn much more. This they can do by learning and striving and working harder. This is, in fact, what Islam teaches us to do.

In your endeavour to communicate the need for this type of change in the people's pattern of behaviour you will need a touch of psychology and some common-sense appeal. Many, including religious teachers, have ventured in this field but leave impression on the kampung people because in their approach little they lack this human touch and appeal. Let us try to do much more by revealing to our people that contentment is good enough at certain times and for certain occasions but never good enough all the time.

I know this is a difficult job - a job which has baffled many people because in our effort a change in society, first and foremost, we ourselves must not merely be convinced of the advantage of those changes but also be prepared to adjust our own attitudes. However, I have personally selected you all to serve this Committee because each one of you has some experience and training in this field and I hope you will carry out your job to the best of your ability.

As your field of operation is wide I suggest that you decide priorities in your plan of operation. I would like you to give priorities to the following:

- (i) Generate more orderly activities involving the people, particularly the rural population, so that they will develop their own resources compatible with the Government's aims and efforts to upraise their standard of living. In other words, more Community Development projects should be carried out laying greater stress on our people's participation.
- (ii) Plan, co-ordinate and implement programmes whereby our Community Development concept can be properly transmitted and communicated to Government officers (especially our Extension Workers) and to the people (especially the Village Level Workers). This will involve not only training but also the holding of Seminar as the last one held at Jitra.
- (iii) Plan and cause to implement a programme providing for better nutritional standards of our people, particularly the rural population.

As regards this last point I would like to announce here that from this year a portion of the proceeds from the Social and Welfare Lotteries will be spent on projects contributing directly to human development. While grants will still be allocated for mosque, suraus, temples and other buildings of religious or charitable nature, funds will also be allocated to projects to combat ill-health (such as applied nutrition), to help overcome handicaps in obtaining adequate (such as the text book problem) and worthwhile projects to combat other social problems which can not be easily eradicated or minimized under existing Government departmental programmes.

I would certainly like you to deal with the problem of ill-health immediately because from what has been revealed by research undertaken by the I.M.R. a great deal of attention is needed in the rural areas to overcome the problems of malnutrition, infant mortality and toddler mortality. In this regard I am happy to note that the Home Economics Classes under my Ministry's Adult Education programme have achieved a break-through in establishing the necessary link to convey the results of research and education of food values from our level to that in the villages. As you know this Ministry's 3 women Training Centres have produced 1,605 teachers and taught Home Economics subjects to about 16,099 adult students in the rural areas. The results have been impressive.

But we must do more! I would like the plan of operation already formulated by the Applied Nutrition sub-Committee of the National Health Council to be launched without further delay and your Committee should see to this and, if feasible, to link it with the functions of the newly established Centre for Food Technology.

This extra effort, if successfully implemented, will I am sure enhance the efforts of the Government's Health Programmes. In turn these combined efforts will ensure that our Nation's health will be a real wealth, truly an asset to our efforts in nation-building.

You may be glad to know that I have approved the sum of \$25,000/- for the purpose of producing some form of publications which can be a medium of communication amongst all concerned in development work. I have agreed that an Editorial Board comprising your Chairman and other officials from my Ministry and from the Malaysian Centre of Development Studies to be set up to produce this publication.

I realize that there is a great need for Government officers, especially those in Development implementation and Extension Workers to be regularly supplied with information relating to Government policies, results of research and the impacts of our development projects on the people. This publication will bridge the gap between the lowest level of Community Development workers to

grasp Government policies and those in the higher level to know the impact of Government programmes at grass-root level. It can also provide opportunities for our officers to write about their experiences, as case-studies, in development which can be of use to other officers. At the same time I hope by this means our officers will develop their talents in writing during their spare time and enrich the literature on the Development Decade as experienced in Malaysia.

About six weeks ago I addressed the Conference of Social Welfare Officers and stressed on the necessity of these officers to orientate their outlook and work from merely one of looking after the welfare of the handicaps and destitutes to an outlook of development. As you all know our Social Welfare officers are among those who have been highly trained in social work and a great asset for Community Development work.

As the area of our operation in Community Development is vast and involve several different levels of societies with different problems, we must deploy our manpower resources in our Gerakan MAJU programmes. In the areas where we have applied the 'mass approach' I am quite satisfied with the arrangement to use Community Development workers who are generalists in the subject such as D.Os, A.D.Os, Penghulus, Adult Education Supervisors, teachers and Ketua-ketua Kampung.