

**SPEECH OF THE HON'BLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF NATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
TUN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK BIN HUSSEIN FOR THE RADIO
PROGRAMME "A DECADE OF NATIONAL
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT"
ON 21ST AUGUST 1967**

We are now celebrating the 10th Anniversary of our Independence. I join you all to greet this auspicious day and, together, we look with pride the decade of development, progress and prosperity we have so far achieved for our country.

Ten years of independence is a brief period in nation building. To some countries 10 years of independence have been experienced as a period of great troubled disillusionment. Peace, happiness and prosperity are fervent hopes existing only in the prayers of the people of those countries. To them every day of independence has turned out to be long days of hardship and struggle for a decent living.

But here in Malaysia, by the grace of God, our Government, the Alliance Government has provided our people with a decade to be proud of and made this nation grow from strength to strength. The inadequacies left by the Colonial rule have much been filled with development projects both in the urban and the rural areas. Our people have attained a much higher standard of living than ever before.

In the history of this country, never have so many of our people shared greater happiness and prosperity within so short a time as the last 10 years.

We have achieved all these through a partnership of efforts. Our people have responded and our Government officers have played their part well. And, on behalf of our Government, I thank you one and all.

Our Nation has now been placed on a firm base of political stability. We have provided it with a strong framework with the many development projects. We have now to continue our work of nation building and ensure that all our people will live in peace and harmony.

There is no doubt that the years ahead will bring problems and difficulties and will pose a further challenge to all of us. Undoubtedly, it will not be enough to maintain the present rate and tempo of development. We have to do a lot more. We will have to utilize all our resources, both human and material, to meet this challenge. It is not enough to make our people merely development conscious. It will be necessary to spur them to further and greater progress. Our people must be more dynamic and more vigorous in our approach to the future to achieve our goal of a happy and prosperous Nation.

Let us look forward to the future with full determination. Let us regard the

diversity of our races and cultures not as a liability but rather as an asset. Let us turn this asset into a power-house to generate a more dynamic and progressive Malaysian society.

With your co-operation and the co-operation of all our people I am confident we will make Malaysia not only as a country worthwhile to live in but one in which we and our children will be proud to live in.