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ADDRESS BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER
AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW WATER
SUPPLY AT KAMPONG PERDEK AND KELUBI,
ULU LANGAT, SELANGOR ON 5TH MAY, 1960

It is a particular pleasure to me to be here today to open this water supply and I am extremely grateful to the Organisers of this opening ceremony for inviting me to declare it open.

At the outset I would like to take this opportunity of acknowledging the magnificent gift of the Australian Government which has provided the equipment, water piping, storage tanks, as a free gift under the Colombo Plan.

On behalf of the Malayan Government I would like to express our most grateful thanks to Australia for this gift: His Excellency, the High Commissioner for Australia is present here today and I hope that he will convey our thanks to his Government.

Equipment of a similar kind has been supplied by Australia for no less than 10 kampong water supplies and 4 of these have now been completed, both here in Ulu Langat and elsewhere in the Federation.

I am particularly happy to be here today to see the completion of this Water Supply Scheme for it represents a concrete example of what we can achieve.

As you know the Alliance Government is determined, in the next five years, to give of their very best in the development of the rural areas.

This is no vague promise but a fact.

Every effort is being made, and plans are in the making in every District throughout the Federation so to gear the resources of the Government in order that maximum impact will be made on the development of the rural areas.

But let us consider what is development.

Development means, first and foremost, a change.

A change of attitude and a change of mind.

Government can open up the rural areas by streamlining the system of land alienation, by opening up access roads to new lands, by giving health services, water supplies, and by encouraging rural industries, etc.

These things we will do to the fullest extent with our own resources. But, it must be remembered that the pace of progress of any nation in its rural development is really the pace of progress of each son of the soil. Government can play its part but Government alone cannot ensure progress. Progress and the destiny of the nation is in the hands of the people and I ask each one of you today to resolve now to give of your best towards the progress of Malaya.

If you have one acre, five acres or 10 acres of land the greatest contribution you can make as a loyal citizen is by ensuring that you work hard and cultivate it to the full and I can assure you that if every single individual landowner in the whole of Malaya doubled the output of work on his land, then automatically we would double the speed of the progress of our nation.

This water supply is symbolic in its own way of the progress we are striving to achieve and I would like to congratulate those of you who have been responsible for it. The work undertaken by the kampong people deserves the highest praise and is a fine example of what can be achieved by initiative and hardwork.