

AN OLD TUNE FROM THE OPPOSITION

WE BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY. SAYS TUN

The Alliance Government's policy is to improve the existing social life so that our people, especially those in the rural areas, will enjoy the amenities of life which they desire. This was stressed by Tun Abdul Razak when he replied to the Opposition Members criticisms during the Budget Debate in the Dewan Rakyat on 25th November, 1965.

The Hon'ble Member for Batu when speaking on the expenditure on defence spoke about the wasteful expenditure on defence. I am afraid, Sir, it is difficult to understand the logic of the speeches of the Hon'ble Member for Batu and his colleague, the Member for Dato Kramat, of the Socialist Front. They are against conscription to assist in the defence of our country and they are against increase of our Defence Budget.

Sir, how else can we look for the defence and security of our country? With Malaysia, we have a bigger area, and longer coastline to defend. We are at present the subject of aggression by a bigger and stronger neighbour. Clearly it is the duty of this Government to take appropriate and adequate measures to defend our country. We have to expand our Armed Forces, our Army and our Navy. We have to station troops on the Borneo Territories as well as in the Peninsula here to defend our independence and our sovereignty.

We have to have patrol crafts and naval ships to patrol our coasts. We have to have our Air Force to transfer our men and to provide supplies, etc. It is true because of confrontation our defence expenditure has to be increased at an accelerated rate, but even in peace time we have to have enough men to help maintain law and order and to defend our country in case of invasion. We have to have ships to patrol our coastline and we have to have an air force. These are inevitable commitments for an independent sovereign nation. In an uncertain and disturbed world which we live, we have to maintain certain amount of defence forces if we value our freedom, our independence and our sovereignty. It is the policy of this Government not to embark on a huge defence expenditure or unnecessary expansion of our Armed Forces. We only aim to have a sufficient force to protect

our shores and our coastline and our boundaries. We intend to have a highly trained force, mobile and assisted by a large reserve of trained men in our volunteer service and also our call-up reserves.

Sir. the Hon'ble Member for Tanjong remarked that one of the ways of getting the defence expenditure down is to have a large reserve of volunteers. This is exactly what we are doing. As Hon'ble Members are aware, we have the Territorial Army and the Local Defence Corps, the size of which is kept under constant review from time to time. We are also expanding for the training of our call-up boys so that we have a large reserve of men available for active service whenever we require.

The Hon'ble Member for Batu as usual, in his support for his theory of socialism, is very often out of step with current events. He alleges that the Alliance Government refuses to use the Budget and all the administrative power attached to re-distribute the nation's income in such a way that the peasants, workers and farmers can get a decent living. The course, Sir, is not possible for the distribution of wealth in the ordinary recurrent budget. The re-distribution of wealth is carried out in our Envelopment Budget. In our Development programme in the past five years and also in the next five years, we give priority to the have nots, to the poor and under privileged in the kampongs, villages and in the towns. In the past five years we have provided these people with amenities of life such as roads, water supplies, medical services and so on. An also *we* have helped them to increase their income. In our Development Budget for the next five years we intend to continue with this policy to extend on our programme of assisting the have nots.

Our policy, Sir, is to level our economic theory in a newly independent country and in an under-developed country is to level up and not level down. We must expand our economy. We must encourage the flow of capital so that opportunities will be provided for our people to obtain employment. We tax the rich so that with the money we help the poor to get a better standard of living and a better way of life.

This is our policy, and this policy has produced results and we intend to continue with this policy whatever the members from Socialist Front choose to say. The people in the kampongs and

the new villages and in the semi-urban areas know what we have done for them and what we intend to do for them and it is for them to judge whether our policies are right or not.

The Hon'ble Member for Ipoh stated that the Alliance Government policies were becoming more and more dictatorial and that the Alliance Government is surpressing and crushing the Opposition. Sir, this is an old tune which has been played again and again in this House. Everyone knows and the people of this country know that the Alliance Government believes in democracy and we uphold our democratic constitution strictly. Indeed, if there is any criticism at all against us it is because we have been too liberal. Opposition parties have complete freedom to say anything against the Government, to criticise the Government and indeed many of the Opposition members have made full use of this freedom. We can take pride in the fact that since we achieved independence for the last eight years, we have been able to make democracy work in this part of the world.

The Hon'ble Member said that he still draws inspiration from the leadership in the government of the country south of the Johore Causeway. We have never interfered in the work of the Opposition. We believe in loyal opposition and so long as they uphold the Constitution as we do. all members of the Opposition should have no fear. I suggest to the Hon'ble Member for Ipoh it is no good turning the old record again and again. We stand by what we do. We allow the people to judge our actions but we trust that the Opposition should not blame the Government for their own ineffectiveness.

The Hon'ble Member for Tanjong stated as he chose in 1959 to go into Opposition to the Alliance Party because he wanted to prepare for what he calk just such a moment of truth that will come to the Alliance and the people must look for the dynamic and positive leadership. We knew he left the Alliance because he had differences with the sincere and loyal leaders of the MCA and with the majority members of the MCA. The Hon'ble Member talked of his great concern for the problem of unity of purpose in our multi-racial society. We on this side of the House have stated. Sir. that we are sincere and strongly believe in the unity of our people in welding together our people of various racial origins into one united nation. But we have also said, being practical men. that this process must necessarily take time. We

cannot be theoretical or idealistic as the Hon'ble Member for Tanjong is. We must be realistic and face the facts as they exist today.

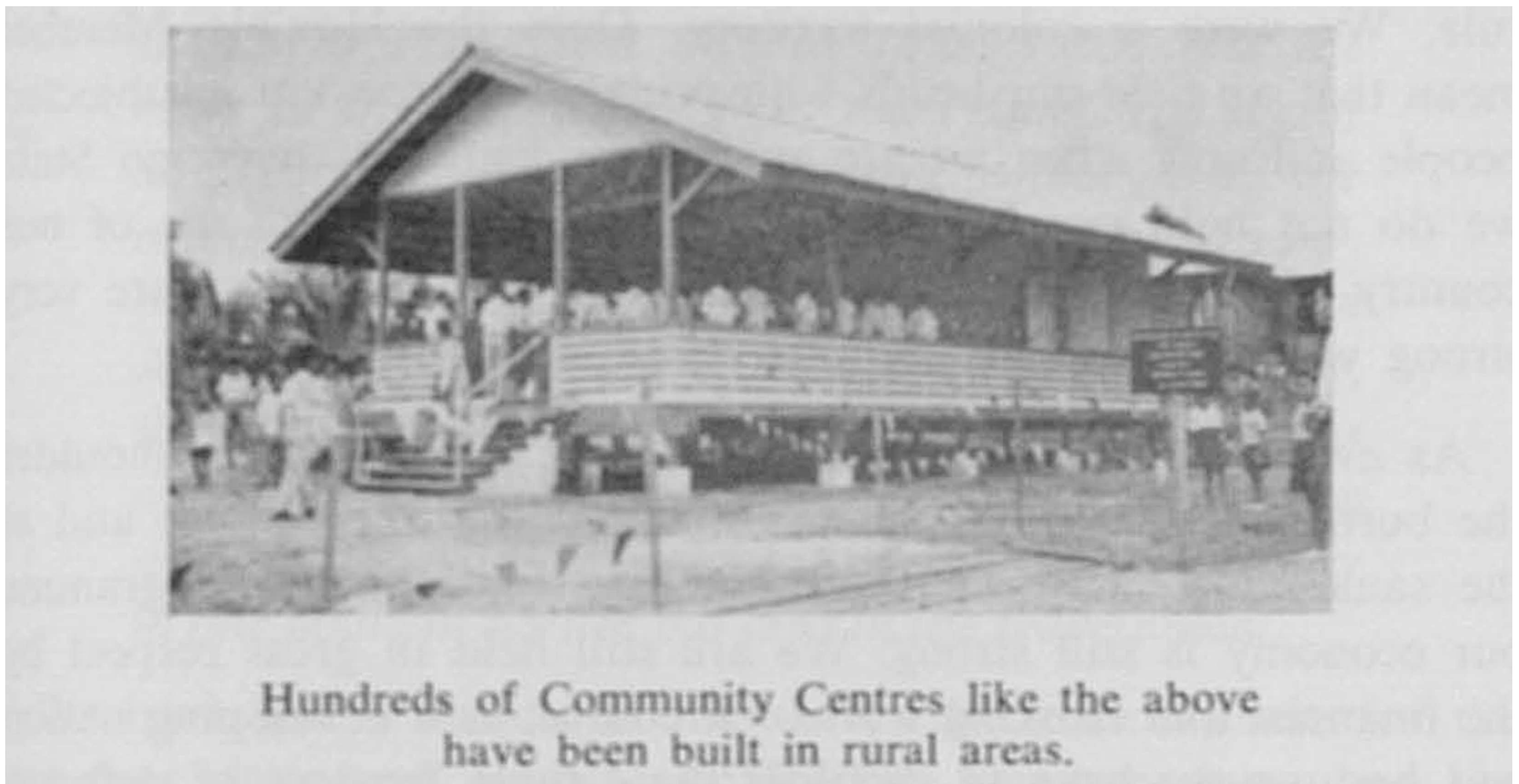
The Hon'ble Member for Tanjong wants all the people of this country of various racial origins to accept themselves as equal members of our national community and think, plan and act as Malaysians. The Hon'ble Member should know that our people, under the Colonial rule have lived under different communities, were allowed and even encouraged to follow and respect the way of life and attended different types of schools. Under those circumstances, it is not possible. Sir. and let us not blind ourselves to the real fact that we can. all of us in a matter of few years think ourselves as Malaysians and completely forget we belong to different racial origins.

Our people must be given time to adjust themselves to sink their differences. Our people must be given time to foster their spirit of goodwill, understanding and friendship with one another. It is not possible for us to think ourselves as one national nation when there are still inequalities and economic imbalances. These problems must be solved and adjustments must be made so that our people of various races would feel that they have a rightful place in our country. This is what the Alliance Government is doing and has been doing. We laid down the framework in our Constitution and within that framework we have worked in harmony and friendship towards the ultimate goal of a real national unity. This goal must be achieved and will be achieved if all our people, particularly leaders, do sincerely work towards this end and completely refrain from making use of sensing communal issues in order to gain political power or a few seats in the election. If we all do this, then we will be able to reach this goal much more quickly. I

We in the Alliance Government are not in the habit of shouting slogans, empty slogans but we are practical and sincere people who always carry out what we believe is in the true interests of our people. Our record is open for everyone to see. People can judge us. history can judge us whether what we have done and are doing is right or not. Our main desire and concern is to serve the people, to make this a happy and united country. We have been in power for over 10 years but we have used that power solely to serve our country and we have not sought power mainly for

the sake of personal glory or for personal importance. We place the welfare of our people and the interests of our country above everything- We place the peace and harmony and goodwill of our people above our own personal desires. We draw inspiration from no one but from our hearts, from our sincere desire to serve our country and people.

Now I come Sir. to the Hon'ble Member for Bungsar. Again Sir. the Hon'ble Member for Bungsar sings the old record that we have not helped the poor and only make the rich richer. Sir, the Hon'ble Member is not qualified to speak for the have nots.



particularly those in the rural areas. The Hon'ble Member in his speech said that we have not provided electricity for the rural areas. But Sir, electricity is not an item of great priority in the kampongs or villages. There are other things of far more importance and far more necessary which we have provided and are continuing to provide for the have nots in the kampongs and villages. They are schools, health facilities, prayer houses, roads and other amenities of life. We have also helped the have nots as I had already said, to increase their incomes so that they will be able to live a decent life of a civilised society.

I say Sir. it is our intention to provide electricity supply to the kampongs and villages. We have done so in a number of cases but we have our priorities. We know the needs of villages because we lived, we were brought up in the villages, most of us. all of us in this side of the House. Our Second Five Year Plan was prepared by the people themselves, by their own elected representatives. They told us what they wanted and we merely carried out

their wishes and their desires. This is how we work and how we implement our development programme. It is not our policy to impose town life into rural areas or to impose foreign way of life into our society. Our policy is to improve the existing social life so that our people will enjoy the amenities of life which they desire.

The Hon'ble Member for Bungsar has a lot to say about the Budget and I have no doubt the Minister of Finance will give him adequate reply. The Hon'ble Member spoke that at the height of the Emergency, we held our heads with pride. What does he mean? At the height of the Emergency, we were under British rule. We were a colonial territory. Does the Hon'ble Member mean that we held our heads with pride when we were a subjected people and now when we are an independent and sovereign State we do not hold our heads with pride? He talked of us, of our country as being a nation of rejected beggars. Sir, these are very strong words which are completely unjustifiable.

As everyone knows, despite the fact that we have to shoulder the burden of increasing defence and security expenditure and at the same time carry out the ambitious development programme our economy is still strong. We are still held in great respect by the financial and banking world. Of course, as a developing nation and because we have to shoulder these three burdens of defence, security and development we naturally have to seek aid from outside. Which country in the world Sir, does not have to ask aid, not even a rich country such as America.

The Hon'ble Member is fond of using strong words, fond of using slogans, empty slogans which for the last two years we have heard so much and naturally we become sick of them. We in the Alliance Government do not believe in words or in slogans. We believe in results, in achievements and success.

We have produced results in our development programme. We have shown to the people that in time of national Emergency we are prepared to defend the country. We are also held in high respect by nations in the world, particularly the Afro-Asian nations because we do things with dignity, because we always have our national pride.

The Alliance Government stand by its record as I said, for all to see; of course we do not expect appreciation from OppositkM

Members. But we know the people of this country expect and have confidence in us and we know that countries of the world hold us in high esteem. These are our main concern Sir, and we shall continue to serve the people and the country in a way that we think best.

"ENEMY FROM WITHIN THE NATION"

— REPLY TO A QUERY IN PARLIAMENT

Figuring prominently in Tun Abdul Razak's speech in Parliament on 3rd June, 1965, was his reply to Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Singapore, who had asked for clarification as to the meaning of the words "the threat from within" contained in the last paragraph of the Royal Address. In the course of that speech, given below, the Tun made it clear⁴¹ the Alliance Government has always believed in the principle of parliamentary democracy and has practised it faithfully not only in our political parties but also in the Government

We have had a debate on the speech from the Throne for the last four days and almost all Hon'ble Members have had the opportunity of expressing their views. Members of the Opposition have had ample opportunities of taking the floor and some of their views were complimentary to the Government while others were not so. However, I would like to say that we, on the Government side, are grateful to those who have supported our policies in the past and our plans for the future.

My colleagues on the Government bench had made suitable replies to most of the points raised by the Hon'ble Members and the Prime Minister feels that there is nothing of any importance left for him to speak in winding up the debate. There is only one thing that he has to reply to and that is on the clarification asked for by the Hon'ble the Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, as to the meaning of the words "the threat from within", contained in the last paragraph of His Majesty's speech.

The Prime Minister has asked me to explain this on his behalf. The Royal Address is the responsibility of the Government. The Prime Minister and my colleagues in the Cabinet take full and