

the difficulties ahead are many and complex. I know our efforts are being watched with sympathy by our friends and with cold eyed calculation by communist elements in our midst and beyond our boundaries. If we make any mistake or if we stumble or slacken in our determination to move forward then our enemies will take immediate advantage to strike at us.

We are determined not to fail. We have a clear picture of **the** kind of society we want, a society where there is democracy, economic and social progress with unlimited scope for individual talents and enterprise. I hope, ladies and gentlemen. I have given you the true picture of our country, of the problems that we have to face and the way in which we intend to solve these problems. I do want you in Australia to understand our problems and our difficulties and our determination to give our people the happiness and prosperity they desire and to share in our hopes and our efforts in maintaining peace and stability in this region of Asia to which both you and we belong.

CALL TO NATION FOR UNITY

NEED TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN THE HAVE'S AND HAVE-NOTS

In his Hari Raya message to the nation in January 1967, Tun Razak pleaded for unity and understanding among the different racial groups living in this country as Malaysians. He said that Malaysia's future and its very existence as a strong, firm and united nation depended on our success in uniting the various races of this country and in creating a true and just society by narrowing the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

The year 1967 has been a historic year because last **August** we were able to celebrate 10 years of Merdeka and the Malay Language also became the sole Official and National **Language** of the country. We have celebrated Malaysia's Tenth **Merdeka** Anniversary in a grand manner and for a few days and **night?** the entire population observed the National Day with joy **and** pride. During the 10 years of Malaysia's independence we **have** achieved a great deal of progress in all fields and all **Malaysians** of different races and religions have derived many benefits **from**

the changes which have taken place especially in the economic field. We do not intend to praise ourselves but nobody can deny the fact that during the last 10 years, we in Malaysia have achieved such progress which no country has been able to achieve within the same period of time and after being under colonial rule. This is a fact recognised by friends as well as foes. We thank Almighty Allah for His Mercies towards Malaysia and its people.

With more experience, with stronger determination by all the people, with the honesty of those who govern and with officials discharging their respective duties and with God's blessing. I believe we can achieve much more progress which will not only satisfy but provide many more benefits to all Malaysian people.

One of the Alliance Government's fundamental policies is to create and establish a just and liberal society in which all Malaysian people, without regard to their origin, will enjoy equal rights in the economic, social and educational fields as well as equal responsibilities. Those who are economically weak, regardless of race, should be assisted in order to ensure the peace and prosperity of the nation. It is also important that those who are backward should be given a living standard befitting the ra'ayat of an independent and developing nation. Our future, our existence as a strong, firm and united nation, to a large extent, depend on our success in uniting the various races of this country and in narrowing the gap between them. The most important factor is for all of us to strive for our objective—to create a true and just society and to satisfy all sides by narrowing the gap separating the have's and the have-not's in this country.

1967 would have been a memorable year for us but for the disturbances in Penang and other areas in the north of West Malaysia. Our good record and our image during the 10 years of independence as a model country of inter-racial understanding in this troubled world, have been marred. We are sad because

OPERATION SELF-HELP



Tun Razak watching a group of Kampong people at work in Kuala Pilah, Negri Sembilan, during Operation Gotong Royong (Self-Help) on 8th May, 1967.



More and more low-cost flats are being provided by the Government for the lower-income group of people. Here Tun Razak is seen declaring open the Razak Mansions at Jalan Sungei Besi, Kuala Lumpur on 26th April, 1967.

these disturbances took place during the time of the expansion of our country's good relations and when its friendship is sought and needed by the outside world.

These incidents were created by bad elements, who do not like to see this country progress and maintain peace, and its ra'ayat of various races living in harmony and friendly relations with one another. These incidents have claimed many lives and resulted in a big loss to property and economy. This is an example of how a small group of extremists can easily wreck the peace and unity of a nation. They are responsible for the outbreak of the conflicts which almost spread throughout the country. They have come to stay in this country, but they are not loyal to Malaysia; and the citizens of Malaysia involved in this affair can be considered as traitors to the unity of the nation.

The Government has taken firm steps against this group and it can be said that all those involved in the disturbances have been arrested. Those who are not the citizens of Malaysia but living here will be deported to their respective countries. Those who have obtained citizenship through naturalization or registration will be deprived of their citizenship because they have shown clearly that they are not loyal to Malaysia. They have thus themselves to blame for losing their citizenship.

We are grateful to God that the situation is now back to normal. It is important for all of us to strengthen inter-racial unity and to be on guard at all times so that we may not be easily influenced by subversive and undesirable elements who are trying to disrupt the unity of the ra'ayat.

We realise and regret that should there be a further outbreak of violence, similar to the recent incidents, the poor and the innocent are the people who will be facing the hardships, get killed or injured. There are members of the Opposition parties who are involved in these sorrowful incidents. Members of responsible political parties, such as the UMNO and Alliance (UMNO, MCA, MIC), always attach importance to peace and order in the country, and aim at strengthening the unity of the ra⁴ayat and ensuring that their happiness is not affected. It is

only through peace that we can preserve our country's continued progress and see that the people receive the necessary amenities. It is clear to us all that the policy of the Alliance—the policy of inter-racial unity—is the only way of ensuring peace and order and of governing this country with complete success. In view of this. I call on the ra'ayat of this country, especially members of UMNO and Alliance, to strengthen our party and to become the true saviour of democracy and oppose anti-national and anti-Malaysia activities and undesirable elements.

On this auspicious day let us all renew our determination to live in friendly relations with one another and work together towards preserving peace and harmony in the country. Let us all make our country' a harmonious multi-racial nation and create a nation of true Malaysians whose loyalty is only to this country. Let us all pledge, to become patriots and oppose all efforts from any source aimed at disrupting the racial unity and destroying the solidarity of Malaysia. We must be determined, vigilant and hard-working, and change our thoughts and outlook. We must be confident that the policy adopted by our Government. to make this country a democratic nation, is the best. Therefore, let us all jointly make a concerted effort to ensure the progress and happiness of our country'.

In a country like Malaysia, with a developing and progressing multi-racial society, we must have a "collective will of moulding a nation with one loyalty, and a country' with one leadership to meet the needs of the people. It is up to the people to show this "collective will", otherwise they will not survive as a strong nation capable of overcoming the difficulties that must be faced in the development of the nation. I realise that this "collective will' does exist among the ra'ayat and we are in a position to check any threat if the ra'ayat and Government continue to cooperate in fighting the enemies of the nation.

We know that the majority of the ra'ayat are loyal citizens and that there is only a small group of extremists and trouble-makers. It is, therefore, important that we must always be on guard and vigilant so that this small group will not be able to spread its influence.

The spirit of brotherhood and goodwill is very important to the progress and solidarity of Malaysia. The ra⁴ayat must think

deeply of the disaster that will befall us if we allow these anti-national elements to prowl and disrupt the peace in the country. The ra'ayat of Malaysia must change their thoughts and strengthen their unity in order to guarantee the continued existence of Malaysia with more and more progress day to day.

I hope that with the inter-racial tolerance and understanding we can strengthen the true national basis of Malaysia and I am confident that in two or three decades a true and perpetual Malaysian nation will emerge. Efforts in this direction are being made by the Government and it is hoped that the ra'ayat too will show the same determination.

At this juncture we must think of ourselves not as a Malay, Chinese, Indian or Eurasian but as a Malaysian in a nation which is in the process of creation. In view of this there must be co-operation and understanding to smoothen and speed up the creation of a true Malaysian nation. We are determined to live as a strong, united and prosperous Malaysian nation so that when the history of developing countries is written, it could be clearly noted that Malaysia is always in the lead as a country which has taken adequate steps to preserve democratic principles and constitutional administration and as an example of a country where the ra'ayat of various races live in good relations and harmony.

As an independent nation we will have to face many problems, and recently we have been affected by an economic recession—the fall in rubber price. This cannot be avoided because of the existing situation in the world today. But we confidently believe that through the efforts and wisdom of our Government, this problem could be overcome. While facing any problems, we should not forget that our country has progressed more than other developing countries. We must not forget the blessings of God in the past and with the expression of our gratitude we can confidently hope that God will bless us even more in the future.

Let us not forget our responsibilities and let us renew our determination to make Malaysia a strong and progressive democratic country where its ra⁴ayat of various races live in friendship and unity. In this way only can we make Malaysia a peaceful, progressive and prosperous nation.