

Recently, during the ASEAN Ministerial Conference in Jakarta, the Philippine Foreign Secretary, Mr Ramos, and I had a short discussion and, in view of the tension that existed between the two countries as a result of the Bangkok talks, we both agreed that the two countries should undergo a short cooling off period. It is, therefore, our hope and our prayer that this cooling off period would help to calm emotion and bring about sobriety and enlightenment so that wiser counsel would prevail in the interest of peace and stability of our region of South East Asia as a whole.

## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS UNPRECEDENTED WHAT WORLD LEADERS THINK OF MALAYSIA

*The tributes paid to Malaysia by world leaders for her unprecedented achievements were referred to by Tun Abdul Razak in replying to criticisms by some members of the Opposition in the Dewan Ra'ayat. The speech that follows was in reply to the debate on the motion of thanks for the Royal Address on 13th June. 1968.*

THE Hon'ble Member for Batu. originally of the Labour Party. now calling himself as representative of the Gcrakan. made a number of serious allegations against this Government, stating that the Alliance Government is full of sins of omissions and misdeeds. Of course, we cannot expect any bouquet from an Opposition Member, but it is not for him to decide the future of this Government or what the people want. It is for the people themselves to decide. The people know the achievements of the Alliance Government during the past 13 years.

Our record of achievements has been unprecedented not only in our history but in the history of developing countries throughout the world. Today, our people of all races enjoy a better and higher standard of living and better amenities of life than they had ever enjoyed before. Our country, Malaysia, from a colonial territory, became an independent country and today, after over 10 years of independence, we have earned the respect of almost all countries of the world, both big and small.

As one who has had the opportunity of meeting leaders of many countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, it has always invoked in me a sense of pride and justifiable satisfaction in the fact that our young and small nation has earned the respect of many big nations of the world. We have been regarded by world leaders, such as President Johnson, President De Gaulle, Heads of States and Prime Ministers of many countries, as a model for newly developing nations. If this is not a record of real achievement, what else could it be? No Government has done so much in so short a time for the people and for the country, and no country has been able to earn so much respect and admiration of the world as Malaysia has in a very short time since we achieved independence. This is a picture and a record that is known to the people of this country—a picture and a record which no amount of fact twisting could erase from the minds of the people of this country.

The Hon'ble Member should not worry about the Alliance position during the elections. We know the solid support that the people had given us during the last three general elections and we have no doubt they will once again give us their solid support in the forthcoming general elections.

*The Hon'ble Member stated that his new Party, the Gerakan, is rich in thoughts and ideas. The people are not looking for thoughts and ideas. The people want concrete results. The people are interested in deeds not words. We have shown the people what we have been able to do. We have demonstrated to them in deeds what independence has meant for them. We have given them dignity of a place among free nations of the world.*

On the development side, particularly rural development, it is a waste of time for the Hon'ble Member to belittle what the Government has done. Our rural development plan has been regarded as a model by many developing nations of the world and our techniques have been adopted by many countries of the world. Our people of all races in the rural areas have benefited from the development plan and they know that no other Government could have done so much as the Alliance Government. Of course, we admit that there is still much to be done. In 10 years we cannot bring complete progress and satisfaction to every citizen in this country but we are determined to do more provided we have the money. Unfortunately, at this very moment, the Government is facing serious financial difficulty due solely to the

lowering in the price of rubber and also to the fact that we have spent vast sums of money on development over the years. But we will continue to generate economic growth to encourage the flow of foreign capital, the establishment of new industries so that our people will be able to obtain employment for those who have no proper employment.

We will continue to open up vast areas of land for those who would like to work on the land. We have now given priority to agricultural development, particularly the production of rice and other crops so that our people, particularly those in the rural areas, will be able to produce all their requirements through their own efforts. This, in turn, will reduce the amount of imports for our country. If our farmers and rural dwellers could be self-supporting in their foodstuff and earn sufficient income from the crops they are growing, then their economy will be based on a really strong foundation. Also, our land is rich in natural resource and we can produce a number of fruit crops which can find market in the world.

On the question of defence. I have already explained our position and our policy when I made a statement to Parliament yesterday on the recent five-power defence talks. While we are doing everything possible to promote our policy of friendship with all nations and our independent and non-aligned foreign policy we must at the same time take measures to see that we have adequate defence forces to look after our country if the need arises. As an independent nation, we must be prepared to be responsible for our own defence and it is gratifying that that friends and partners in the Anglo-Malaysian Defence Treaty have agreed to assist us in not only in the expansion of our Armed Forces but also to participate in the joint defence arrangement in this area and to show continued interests in the peace and stability in this area of South-East Asia.

Our independent and non-aligned foreign policy is understood and appreciated by almost all countries of the world and now as stated in His Majesty's speech, a number of East European countries have shown interest to have trade relations and diplomatic relations with us. During my extended tour of Europe recently. I had the opportunity of visiting Soviet Union and discussed and exchanged views with leaders of the Soviet-Government.

*I am pleased to inform this House the Soviet leaders really understand our position, our independent and non-aligned foreign policy and that is why the Soviet Union has been happy to establish diplomatic relations with us and to be on friendly terms with us.*

During my visit to Europe and the Soviet Union, I also discussed with the leaders of these various countries, our ultimate aim as mentioned by my Hon'ble friend, the Member for Johor Timor, that our ultimate objective is to have the neutrality of this region of South-East Asia guaranteed by all the big powers, the U.S., Soviet Russia, Britain and China, so that small nations in South-East Asia can live in peace and harmony, free to follow their own way of life without fear of interference from outside. Of course, this guarantee must be a real and sincere guarantee and that there must not be any interference in the internal affairs of all the countries in South-East Asia.

I am sure Hon'ble Members will agree with me that looking at the situation in South-East Asia today, the achievement of this objective must necessarily take time. The countries in South-East Asia must first show their determination to live together in peace to defend their independence and their integrity and that they would not tolerate aggression or interference from any quarters. They must show to all nations, big and small, that the best policy and one that will be for the benefit of all nations is peaceful co-existence. This is the policy that we have been following and, as I have most countries of the world. West European countries, East European countries and Soviet Russia, understand our sincere policy of independence and non-alignment.

The Hon'ble Member for Batu made a serious allegation that the Alliance Government will try to create an issue and would make use of the bogey of racial tension in order to win the next elections. I like to inform the Hon'ble Member we are aware of the solid support of the people for us and there is no need for us to create any issue to win the next elections. The people know that our policy, the Alliance policy, always stood for racial harmony, for unity among our people of various races and that we will do everything possible to stop people from using this communal issue to raise tension that would jeopardise the peace and security of the country. The Hon'ble Member for Batu should know that the trouble that we had in Penang last year was instigated by irresponsible elements of his previous associates, members of the Labour Party.

We all know what inconvenience and trouble this had caused the people of Penang and also to other parts of the country; and the number of lives sacrificed because of the irresponsible acts by these elements. We, in the Alliance Government, have always endeavoured to play down whatever racial differences we have and will do everything possible to strengthen the goodwill and friendship among our people of various races.

A few Hon'ble Members of the Opposition suggested that since we have established diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia, we should also establish diplomatic relations with Red China. As I have explained, our policy is to be friendly with all countries who wish to be friends with us and will not interfere with our internal affairs. Soviet Russia has given us this assurance but Red China has not done so; and as far as we know, she continues to assist and give encouragement to the terrorists and subversive elements on our borders who are carrying out activities to overthrow this Government by unconstitutional means and by force of arms.

*Both the Honble Member for Batu and the Honble Member for Ipoh spoke about corruption. It is not true that we only want to catch the small fish and not the big fish—the ikan bilis and not the ikan yu. We want to catch everybody who indulges in corrupt practices. That is why we have taken action to streamline and strengthen the Anti-Corruption Agency and since the re-organisation of the Agency, it has done good work and it would take time before the Agency can be on a proper footing.*

It would take time to train officers in order to discharge their work satisfactorily. It is also not true to say that corruption has increased. We admit that there has been and there is corruption in this country, but it is not rampant and it has been considerably checked and most of the cases that had been brought to book are among the lower ranks of the Government servants. In 1967, 19 Government servants were arrested for indulging in corrupt practices but none of them is from Division I or Division II. This figure shows that corruption is never rampant nor widespread and if we continue to take adequate and firm action as the Government is determined to do, I am sure that corrupt practices can be reduced to the minimum.

As usual, the Hon'ble Member from Dato Kramat was free with criticism of the Government's policies and performance in the economic field without any attempt at constructive suggestions. While it is not surprising. I would like to emphasise that the increase in gross national product during 1967 at 2.8% was achieved in the face of adverse external economic circumstances. The increase in physical output during 1967 at 5.8% itself reflects commendable efforts.

The Hon'ble Member was at pains to suggest that F.L.D.A. land schemes, taken together in the last 10 years, did not provide employment opportunities adequate to the needs. Here. I may point out, that ours is a mixed economy with a significant private sector. It is always envisaged that Government's efforts are only a part of the totality of efforts required to bring about a self-reliant and dynamic society.

After referring to Government's liberal land alienation policy and its diversification efforts. Tun Abdul Razak said that he was aware of marketing problems for primary products like oil palm but assured the Members that everything possible was being done to ensure a steady and expanding market and uses for oil paim. He added that Government would do "all we can to encourage increased trade and economic activity in Penang".

Continuing. Tun Razak said:

The Hon'ble Member from Dato Kramat has alleged that the Government has been using the powers under the Internal Security Act in order to restrict the fundamental human rights, as provided in the Constitution. It must be pointed out that the provisions of the Internal Security Act are not in violation of the Constitution. They have been introduced in order to preserve democracy by providing special powers to curb the activities of subversive dements who are determined to destroy democracy by the abuse of democratic processes.

The Hon'ble Member for Dato Kramat also stated that the Government had closed down four divisions and 100 branches of the Labour Party in West Malaysia without giving any reasons. This statement is incorrect as reasons for declaring unlawful these branches are always mentioned in every Order i.e., the Branch "is being used for purposes prejudicial to the interest of the security of the Federation." This Order is also published in the Government *Gazette*.

The closing down of these Branches was made under provisions of Section 5 of the Societies Act. As I have mentioned before these Branches were closed down not as a result of lawful activities of members in their capacity as members of an opposition political party but because these Branches have been used as a cover for carrying out activities which are prejudicial to security and public order.

The Hon'ble Member for Dato Kramat also enquired if members of these branches which have been declared unlawful are still members of the Labour Party. It will not be proper for me to give an opinion on this matter and I therefore suggest the Hon'ble Member communicate direct with the Registrar of Societies.

With regard to the Hon'ble Member from Dato Kramat's view that we are investing too much money in the Jengka Triangle without taking due consideration on the returns for such investments, I would like to make it clear in this House that the implementation of the Jengka project is as a result of a sound recommendation from the firm of consultants engaged by our Government to carry out the feasibility and viability studies of the project. The feasibility studies have been studied and scrutinised carefully by our economists both from the Economic Planning Unit and the Treasury and also from the World Bank. The considered findings of the economists confirm that the project is economically viable. It is envisaged that the proposed investments will generate a very favourable return i.e., at the rate of 16%. The investment would also generate substantial *foreign* exchange earnings for the country.

The Hon'ble Member has also criticised that the F.L.D.A. is going on a large scale for the production of oil palm. He is afraid that oil palm would be confronted with similar difficulties which face the rubber industry today.

We are aware of the difficulties that will face oil palm in the future, but I must inform the Hon'ble Member that we are not hitching our wagon to oil palm blindly. We have carefully worked out the necessary economic projections for oil palm, and in the circumstances that we are in today, it would be the best bet available especially if it is possible for us to establish ourselves in the industry as quickly as possible. Our entry into the oil

palm industry is to be backed up with proper research outfits and economic intelligence which would place us in a better position to compete for the world markets.

The Hon'ble Member for Johore Tenggara has suggested that the F.L.D.A. should have a research unit of its own so that its progress can go on smoothly. Well, with regard to this. I would like to inform the House that this is being done and in a few months' time, the F.L.D.A. would have established its own Research Centre for oil palm and other crops in the Tekam Area, just outside the Jengka Triangle, in Pahang.

The Hon'ble Member from Bukit Bintang has urged the Government to accelerate the opening up of more land for the purpose of absorbing the unemployed. I would like to refer him to my Oral Reply with regard to the employment of unemployed youths where I have stated that the Government would carry out. assist and encourage the opening up of lands within the resources available for those who are landless and also for our youths.

The Hon'ble Member from Sarawak, Tuan Haji Saud bin Haji Mohd. Tahir. has suggested that more scholarships be given to bumiputra from Sarawak. Well, resources permitting, this can be done and provided that the bumiputra concerned have the basic academic requirements and can obtain places at appropriate institutions of higher learning. In fact, up to date, MARA has awarded 11 scholarships to bumiputra from Sarawak for purposes of furthering their studies. The figure of 11 represents 80% of the total number of applicants from Sarawak.

With regard to scholarships for Form VI. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that one scholarship has already been awarded and two more will be awarded this year.

The Hon'ble Member has also suggested that MARA should establish in Sarawak secondary schools for those bumiputra who cannot be absorbed into the secondary schools run by the Government. Here. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that it is not the policy of MARA to duplicate the work of the Ministry of Education because, as I have said, many a time. MARA's training is of specific nature, and its training is largely in the professional and technical fields so as to enable the bumiputra to play their adequate and proper role in the fields of commerce and industry.