

I do wish your Society all the success that you deserve and that you will get the support from not only the members of the public service. but politicians as well as business executives. But I do ask of you that you should also join a Club or have a club of your own so that there is a permanent place for you to meet and discuss and talk matters informally and at leisure.

PROGRESSIVE AND PROSPEROUS

FAMILY PLANNING NECESSARY

Tun Razak. at the launching ceremony of the Rational Family Planning Week on 8th June, 1968, at Stadium Negara, pointed out that for all in this country to enjoy better the amenities of life and maintain a standard of living compatible with a modern and progressive society, a well-planned national policy of family planning was absolutely necessary. He cited the case of Japan as a nation to be emulated and followed in order to bring about success in the fields of development and in achieving a high standard of living through people having small sized families.

The national policy of Family Planning is regarded by the Government as an important measure if we and our descendants are to enjoy the amenities of life and a standard of living compatible with a modern and progressive society. I am also happy to note that our policy to encourage our people to adopt a family planning programme has been well received by all sections of our community.

I would now state here the danger of an uncontrollable increase of population to a country and the world at large. Now, let us take our country. Malaysia. According to our 1947 census, the population of West Malaysia was 4.008 million. Twenty years later, namely by 1966, our population rose to 8.298 million. This shows an increase of about 4 million people within such a short period of only 20 years. Population surveys indicate that the rate of increase of 3% per annum of the population of this country would mean that our population would double in 23 to 25 years. If this is so. by 1990 we in Malaysia should be having

a population of about 20 million people. Now perhaps it may be difficult for most of us to realise and visualise problems that the entire nation will face when we have such a population because we have not experienced living as a unit among 20 million people, sharing the necessities and amenities of life that will be obtainable at that time.

In 20 years time our population will double from what it is now. Our Government has embarked upon an extensive development programme which promises a higher standard of living. Picture to yourself, life in a society where one has to fight for one's share of the necessities and amenities of life which have to be shared by too large a population. Obviously, if the cake is not too big and has to be shared by too many people, each will have only a very small slice.

Since independence, our Government have been able, through our wise policies of economic development and of gearing the machinery' of Government towards the carrying out of this important task, to raise the *per capita* income for our people to S930 by the end of 1965 from S790 in 1960. It is our aim to raise the *per capita* income to \$1300 by 1985. We will only be able to do this if we could maintain the present tempo of development plans and at the same time to reduce the rate of increase of population from 3% to 2.2% per annum by 1985.

Now, through our economic development efforts we have been able to lay a strong foundation in social, political and economic fields for us to build a strong, happy and prosperous society. We are determined to proceed with our development programmes and with our efforts of modernising our country. Therefore, in order to enable our programmes to be carried out successfully and smoothly, we must see to it that any obstacles in our way should be removed. One of the obstacles is the high rate of population growth. Therefore, we have to make efforts to slow down the rate of population increase sufficiently to permit our development programmes in all fields to go on smoothly and successfully in order to ensure the happiness and prosperity of the entire nation and to give everyone of our citizens a rightful place in our country with the necessary amenities and necessities of life. "

The whole world today views with great concern the **uncontrollable** increase of population. According to the United Nations Report in its Demographic Year Book 1965, the total **world**

population in 1930 was 2.070 million. I am sure it would frighten all of you. as it docs to mc. to know that within 30 years, i.e.. by 1960. the world population stood at 3.285 million indicating a big margin of increase of over 1.000 million. Also, the birth rate in 1960 alone number about a thousand mission. It is also a fact that a great portion of this increase took place in developing countries which are mobilising all their efforts and energies to achieve economic development and a higher standard of living for their people.

Most countries in the world, particularly those which are densely populated, have adopted family planning as a national policy. Take, for example, our friend and neighbour India. India now has a population of about 520 million and at her present rate of population growth of 3% . before the end of the century India will ha\e a population of 1 billion. Now India has adopted this family programme for almost 20 years and it has taken India all these years to enable the programme to show effective results. In spite of India's efforts at family planning and control of population growth. India recently was facing an acute shortage of food. The same problem will apply to many other densely populated countries of the world because almost all the developing countries are supporting a big population half of which are under 20 or 15 years of age. The cost of supporting such a young population in terms of investment in educational and productive facilities must necessarily present a tremendous burden for developing nations.

Japan, a newly developed nation can offer an example of how rapidly falling birth rates have brought about her present high standard of living which is one of the highest in the world. Japan's birth rates had dropped by 1966 from post-war high of 34 per thousand to about 15 per thousand. These children are already assured of a job and even better living conditions as the country advances. It has been estimated that at the present rate of population increase it takes Japan about 70 years to double her population. Japan, therefore, provides a clear example of how a country is able to achieve success in fields of development and in achieving a high standard of living through people having small-sized families. Therefore, we can conclude that in order to meet our problems in future, the idea of having a small-sized family according to our means is one which we must adopt. Family planning, therefore, can be said to be the saviour of humanity.

Now we are clear in our minds of the necessity of adopting this national policy of family planning, if we are to enjoy the fruits of scientific and technological advancement and to have a strong, well-fed, educated people able to play their rightful part in a modern society. Since we established the National Family Planning Board in 1966, much has been achieved in promoting this policy and in making it known to our people the desirability of adopting this policy. We adopted this policy at the end of our successful Second Five-Year Development Plan and within a year our Family Planning Programme has achieved remarkable success. I would, therefore, like to appeal to all our people that in their own interest and in the interest of their descendants and in the interest of our nation, they should adopt this family planning without any hesitation.

I am happy to know that the National Family Planning Board anticipates that by their current progress, birth rates will drop by 2% by 1985, that is 0.2% lower than that projected by the Government. If this can be achieved, then it will undoubtedly take us far ahead of all developing countries. If we succeed in doing this, then clearly before the end of the century we will be able to eliminate poverty, ill-health and illiteracy among our people and to build a modern society and a happy and contented people. I would like to appeal to those of child-bearing age to take the opportunity of utilising to the fullest the services offered by the Family Planning Board and to participate in its programmes for the happiness of their family, for the prosperity of our nation and for peace of the world.

THE MAINSTAY OF OUR ECONOMY

NEED FOR STABILISATION OF PRICE OF RUBBER

Tun Razak emphasised that rubber is still the mainstay of Malaysia's economy and that the vicissitudes of its producers were inescapably reflected in the economic and social well-being of this country. He said this when he officially opened the Conference of Natural Rubber Producing Countries in Kuala Lumpur on 2nd October, 1967.

We, in Malaysia, attach the greatest significance to the fact that you as delegates from other rubber-producing countries show that you also share our sense of purpose and sense of urgency.