

But as any mechanic will tell you; after you have recharged a battery, you have to test it to make sure it has been *fully* recharged!

At the end of this Seminar, we will have a get-together session to discuss these very vital subjects that I have just mentioned and I hope that I will find, when we meet again here, that you have all been *re-charged*, and have a new spark in your mind and attitude, the spark of the *real* spirit of our National Development.

A new attitude which you will take back to your *States* and *districts* and use it to the full to ignite, within the agricultural sector of our country, a *flame* of *determination* to get Agriculture Development *really moving* in Malaysia!

THE YEAR OF THE "TRANSPLANT"

THE NEED FOR EXCHANGING IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES

"Development Councils have become the main blood-Stream of our development organization..... And so the setting up of a Regional Council is, to us, hut a natural and logical sequel in the development of this Region." said Tun Abdul Razak at the official opening of the Regional Seminar on Development on 5th February, 1968, at Kuala Lumpur. The keynote of his address. given below. is the need for greater regional cooperation.

As you all know, we in Malaysia decided to set up a Development Studies Centre and hold from time to time, both Regional and International Seminars, not with a view to attempting to teach other countries how to develop, but rather with a view to stimulating and encouraging an interchange of ideas and methods on Development, so that we can all gain from each other's experiences in the field of Development.

It may be said that 1968 is the year of the "*transplant*" in which medical science has made a break-through in being able to transplant hearts! We. here in this Seminar, are also making a bold attempt to carry out a successful "*transplant*".

The whole object of us getting together, representing friendly neighbouring developing countries in this area of South-East Asia, is to try and successfully transplant and inter-change the experiences and knowledge each of us have acquired, and to discuss together the lessons we have learned in our own countries, and, perhaps, in your discussions the germs of new ideas, of new thinking and new methods will be transplanted from one to the other. Perhaps, if our development transplant operation is a hundred percent success, we will give our region of South-East Asia *a new heart* and a new hope for the future! But as you are all aware the essentials of a successful transplant operation depend, to a large extent on the other main organs of the body being in sound healthy condition.

So also with the economic development of this Region of South-East Asia. It is of little value to transplant ideas, knowledge, and experience on Development unless we have sound organisations and the administrative machinery to implement them to the full. As with human transplant, also is required strong veins and arteries of human communication between our various countries and peoples in this region and to make sure that the flow of friendship and good-will between us is never again blocked by a few irresponsible "clots".

The days of national isolation are a thing of the past! Now adays, each of our achievements and our setbacks, our successes and our failures, our way of life and our aspirations have significance far beyond our national boundaries. The era of isolation is dead -we are living in the *era of interdependence*.

Goodwill and human consideration alone, although essential ingredients to our common objective of co-operation, are not enough. It is absolutely essential that the leaders of the world, and those responsible for formulating national policies be alive and make use of the vast areas of possibility and opportunity that exist and have yet to be tapped to the full. We all must make more positive and sincere efforts to mutually improve each other's economic, social, cultural and educational progress.

Not long ago in this Hall, the President of the Republic of the Philippines called for our countries of South-East Asia to give reality to our common aspirations. He declared that the time is now ripe for the setting up of new schemes for economic, technological, scientific, educational and cultural co-operation in this region.

To us in Malaysia this call is most welcome and coming from a statesman of President Marcos' calibre is proof of the awakening on the part of our people of South-East Asia to the need for greater achievements in these fields of progress. To us in Malaysia this call is a matter of the utmost satisfaction which will encourage us, together with others, to make even more determined efforts to promote regional co-operation among our countries of South-East Asia. I declare here speaking for Malaysia, our positive response in full measure to this proposal and our readiness to explore all avenues for its realisation, I say here and now that we can and will contribute wholeheartedly and immediately to the implementation of this proposal.

In fact for the last ten years. Development Councils have become the main blood-stream of our development organisation. We in Malaysia realise, after twelve years of fighting militant Communism, when we were first able to get down seriously to the task of Development, that the first essential was to set up a machinery of Development within our country. Under our R-E-D Book System we established Development Councils at Federal, State, District and even at Village levels. And so, the setting up of this Council at Regional level is, to us, but a natural and logical sequel in the development of this Region. In fact, it is a challenge and a welcome opportunity to us in Malaysia, who are with one heart, and one voice, willing to play our part and make our full contribution to the development, not only of our own country, but to the Region as a whole.

There is one thing, however, which I would like particularly to stress with regard to the concept of this Regional Development Council. Recent events in the world, over the last decade or two, have shown how easy it is to set up councils, committees and conferences. It has also shown how easy it is for international organisations to become too top-heavy and although their intentions are excellent, difficulty is experienced in conveying conference-table decisions right down to practical implementation on the ground, without becoming caught in the webs and pit-falls of bureaucracy. We must never allow our new Regional Development Council when set up, to fall into this trap!

Regional co-operation must become a reality, not confined only to top leadership, but must permeate right down to the lowest strata of our economy, and the whole strata of our respective

societies. Let us not make the mistake of allowing this new Development Council to become a depository' for the dead-beats, misfits and the bureaucratic fugitives of the world, but let us ensure that we contribute towards its success with the best human resources we have available, and if, per chance, any of our nations are liable to suffer from a brain-drain, let it be directed into the blood-stream of this new dynamic Development Council! Let us, therefore, have, at this historic juncture, sufficient vision and imagination to plan and set up a Regional Envelopment Council that will not only be dynamic in action, but will use as its yard-stick of success "positive action and tangible results".

Furthermore, when we set up this regional machinery for Development, let the key-note be *Development cooperation in depth*, and by this I mean that contact between our neighbouring nations in the field of Development must not be confined only to the conference table or committee room—there must be contact at all levels—on our farms, in our factories, in our laboratories, and in our institutes of learning.

For developing countries which have just become newly independent, the task of development is but a natural struggle, a continuance and part and parcel of the struggle for national freedom. Appropriate strategies will have to be laid out to ensure that the mind and will of the nation are focussed on the objective of Development. National emotions which hitherto have been used to fight the forces of colonialism have now been mobilised to the full to eradicate the inherited defects of the past.

On this, we in Malaysia have been fortunate for the record of our ten years of Development has shown that the techniques and systems which we evolved for National and Rural Development are bearing fruit. The winds of change, the aftermath of a silent economic revolution that have swept over every village in the country are most gratifying and most rewarding to the efforts and initiative of every Malaysian today.

Once the road of Development is taken there is no turning back. It is a road that is infinite and equally so are the energies generated. To consider development as finite would cause stagnation and irreparable damage in terms of our national progress. Therefore, in planning our Development programmes we must be certain that each is a progressive step forward but at the same time we must be cautious to see that every step taken is planned and is practicable.

If in the course of our Development, aid has to be sought, it is sought in the interest of continuing what has already been begun. The aid we seek is, therefore, to ensure and sustain progress. The criteria for aid cannot only be for the man who is merely hanging on the thread of existence but equally is important that aid must be considered to keep the machine of progress moving and expanding.

Within the broad concept of the organisation of ASEAN, for instance, there exists an instrument to obviate any difference; allay suspicions, help suppress obsessions, create common understanding and create an opportunity for the meeting of minds. I am confident this will result in total co-operation between its members for the benefit of all of us. I have stated several times that to Malaysia the efforts to realise this aim is one that is very dear to us. For our part we will do the best we can. However, this cannot be achieved purely on willingness and readiness of Governments alone. Treaties or agreements alone cannot be effective unless there is a desire among the peoples of the countries concerned to work together side by side to achieve this common aim. Therefore, a start has to be made to create a definite awareness amongst our people of the validity and significance of this concept. People of this Region, be they businessmen, politicians, educationists, farmers and civil servants must meet more frequently so that they can understand and appreciate each other's problems and interests. A Seminar of this nature at which are gathered together professionals in the field of Development, is one of the most practical steps in giving reality to the call for regional co-operation.

I have just stated in definite terms of what I feel is the essence of development; it is economic progress, not contented complacency nor a philosophy based on mere survival can the nation expect to harness its people's emotions and capabilities towards a better life. Once we set out upon a course of development, expectations are implanted in the hearts of the people. Expectations are in one sense limitless; the more we progress the greater the expectations. However, I consider expectations as the fuel of development. Without this our efforts would cease to be dynamic.

This Seminar which will meet for the next ten days has as its theme "The Strategies for Motivating Development". I cannot think of a better topic for us to discuss since motivation is what

keeps us moving along the path of progress. I urge that during your discussions you consider this aspect seriously, and most of all, in practical terms.

Let us not confine our deliberations to theory, but consider ourselves as a group with an accumulation of years of practical experience based on the knowledge of our people and the environment of this region, and with reservoir of experience and talent I hope that there will be established not only a recognition of co-operation but a continual need of exchanging ideas.

If you approach the Seminar in this spirit. I feel certain that new and useful ideas will emerge from which we will all benefit. Lastly, it is my sincere wish that you should see as much of Malaysia, as possible, and bring back with you the satisfaction not only that you have learned something from us but that we Malaysians have been able to learn from you just as much if not more. We can then pride ourselves of having carried out a successful Envelopment "transplant" operation!

THE GREAT TRANSFORMATION

MALAYSIA GETS PRAISE FROM WORLD BANK PRESIDENT

At a symposium entitled. "Great Economic Debates" held at Dewan Tengku Chancellor. University of Malaya on 2nd October, 1967. Tun Razak, in his opening address. gave details of the progress attained by the Alliance Government in the various spheres of development entered into since the attainment of Merdeka. He brings home the fact that it is well within the scope of each and every one who has the welfare and progress of the country at heart to contribute individually and collectively to the common cause.

It always gives me a pleasure to come to this University because it reminds me of the visit I made to this place 11 years ago in 1956 when I walked on the site which was then covered with rubber trees and secondary jungle in order to decide on the establishment of this University. So I had obtained a little