

## TIME TO TAKE STOCK OF MALAYSIA'S PROGRESS

*On the Occasion of the **National** Solidarity Week, in February, 1967, in Kuala Lumpur. a luncheon was given by the National Union of Journalists. Speaking then Tun Razak expressed the view that the establishment of a united Malaysian nation was vital to the peace, happiness and prosperity of our country.*

It is of course customary on an occasion like this to take stock of our position, to look back into the past and see our achievements and our successes and our mistakes, if any. in order that we can look to the future with greater faith, greater confidence, and greater determination. During the last two years since independence. Malaysia, our young nation, despite confrontation and aggression by the enemy, has forged ahead in all fields. In the economic field we continue to make great strides. Coming to international field our stock has risen tremendously particularly among the Afro-Asian countries. We have gained the respect of most nations of the world. At home, internally, our people have demonstrated in clear terms, their loyalty to Malaysia, their confidence in the future of our country and their determination to defend our independence and our integrity. Our people of all races including those who live in Sabah and Sarawak, whether they live in the town, in the village, in the kampong or in the longhouses have a sincere desire to live together as one people.

They have shown that they are more and more conscious of their national unity. It is therefore the duty of all of us to encourage, stimulate and strengthen this spirit of unity so that we will be able to inculcate in the minds of the various races a true spirit of Malaysian-consciousness and loyalty. I am really impressed by the determination shown by our people to assist the Government in forging a spirit of unity among the various races in this country. I do also hope that this spirit of unity and determination will be reflected by our people in their daily activities. It is only by continuing to fan this spirit of unity and loyalty to our country can we really succeed in building a strong and united people.

I would like to see greater manifestation of loyalty by our people, by their coming forward voluntarily to join the various

civil defence organisations and other auxiliary agencies to support our Armed Forces in the defence of our country and in protecting our ideals and our way of life. I would also like to see more of our people in all walks of life taking part in various charitable and welfare and educational institutions in our country.

We will do everything possible to foster this spirit of loyalty and unity among our people. Our national educational policy has been geared towards this end, to make our children of all races learn the same thing in the same way, under the same roof and learn things about our country. Our development programme also has this objective in mind. In implementing our economic development programme, we have always emphasised that the ultimate objective must be to make our people self-reliant, to make them stand on their feet, to do things on their own initiative and efforts. We cannot be a great nation unless our people have that spirit of self-reliance and self-respect.

Many people who have visited our country have talked of Malaysia as a model of a multi-racial society—as an example to the world how people of various racial origins, of different cultures and religions can live together peacefully and happily. The people of this country have lived together as one happy family for generations, respecting one another's religion, language, customs and thought. Our people have a lot of goodwill, tolerance and respect for one another. We have therefore the basis and the ingredients for building a really happy and united multi-racial society. It is therefore the duty of all of us in order to achieve this objective of ours to help eliminate any inequalities or any imbalance politically and economically or otherwise, so that our people of all races can have a rightful place in our country.

We strongly and firmly believe in this ultimate objective of building a united Malaysian nation. We think that we must give our people time to adjust themselves, time for us to correct any imbalances or inequalities. In Malaysia our population is nicely balanced and with the basic characteristics of our people of tolerance and goodwill and moderation, I am confident we shall be able to build a truly united nation. In the past we have been able to establish a strong and stable Government because we believe in the principles of democracy-, justice, freedom and

fair play. Now with the spirit of tolerance, patience and goodwill, I am confident that we shall build a strong, happy and united nation.

However. I would like to appeal to all of you. to help to promote this feeling of oneness or unity among our various races. There are some political leaders who are still making use of this racial issue, playing one race against another for the sake of gaining political power. These leaders clearly have not the real interest of our people at heart and I do hope that speeches that are not conducive to racial harmony and goodwill would not be given prominence in our newspapers. If we sincerely believe in the creation of a real Malaysian nation and not merely using these words as political slogans to gain political support then we all must avoid making statements that would upset any group or section of our community. We must always stress something that we have in common that can foster and encourage a sense of unity among our people.

As leaders of your trade union organisations you have a heavy responsibility upon your shoulders. Your immediate duties are, of course, to your members to see that they obtain better working conditions. But do not forget that you have equally important duties towards our country. As I have already said earlier, your organisations have an important role to play in achieving peace and prosperity of the country. One of the ways in which you can make a substantial contribution in this direction is to try to have industrial peace. This is particularly important at the present stage of our country. I hope, therefore, that in your deliberations you do not lose sight of your duties to your country.

— *Tun Razak said at the ninth annual conference of Industrial and Manual Services Staff Council on 19th December. 1964.*