

ADDRESS BY Y.A.B. DATUK HUSSEIN ONN,  
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA, AT THE OPENING  
OF THE CONFERENCE ON "HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
FOR THE RAKYAT IN THE LOWER INCOME  
GROUPS ON MONDAY, 3rd MAY, 1976,  
AT NIRVANA BALLROOM, HOTEL HILTON,  
KUALA LUMPUR, AT 10.00 A.M.

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Encik K.C. Leong, President of Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Housing, Malaysian Chapter, and Chairman of the Conference Organising Committee,

Mr. Dean Cesar Concio, President of EAROPH,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

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~~I am indeed happy to be here this morning to share with you the excitement of this very interesting Conference. I say so, because it deals with the very fundamental problems which face thousands of our citizens of all races who are in the lower income groups. A well-balanced and realistic human~~

I greatly appreciate the honour you have given me to open this conference, you have described it as " a Conference on Human Settlements for the Rakyat in the Lower Income Groups." Emik K. C. Leong in his address just now has indicated that it will reveal some vital problems of human settlements, which must be tackled in totality. Even though I am not well-versed in the details of the subject, nevertheless, I am very interested in it as the Government has, for a number of years, ~~was~~ been embarking on a massive programme of national development.

This has and will continue to involve human settlements.

One of the conclusions in the report of

the meeting of experts held in Dubrovnik,

Yugoslavia, in May last year, is that

and I quote: "Human Settlements crisis

cannot be tackled without raising

the question of the transformation

of society itself. This transformation

constitutes a challenge to man's capacity

for creation and renewal, and is

inseparable from the overall problem of

development.

Every act has its benefits and adverse effects, just as every drug has its curing and side-effects.

" unquote. / Solutions to

the "crisis" are indeed formidable.

nevertheless, they can be found, ~~and~~

at least some of them.



~~This has and will involve human settlements,~~

both in the urban and rural areas. Every <sup>benefits and</sup> act has its effects, just as every drug has its ~~side-effects~~ curing and side effects.

2. ~~Every act has its effects, just as every~~  
~~drug has its side effects.~~ The second  
malaysia Plan was the largest and most  
ambitious development plan yet undertaken  
in this country. Our people of all races and  
all social groups have regarded it as a  
great opportunity to participate in the whole  
process of social change and nation-building.

The Plan

1. ~~It~~ was just one share in a far-reaching  
transformation of the social framework of

production and distribution leading to more equitable distribution of income and wealth, more balanced regional development, expanded employment opportunities and an enduring economic stability.

3. The Third Malaysia Plan which we will launch in July this year, will be a continuation of the Second Plan. In terms of public expenditure, it will be bigger, much bigger than that of the Second Plan. In the light of our ~~past~~ experience and review of the Second Plan, priorities and emphasis of projects and programmes will be

(5)

modified in the Third Plan, without  
however, changing the two-pronged  
objective of eradicating poverty, irrespective  
of race, and restructuring Malaysian  
society to reduce and eventually  
eliminate the identification of race  
with economic functions.

4. Development plans as massive as ours, ~~have been~~ inevitably embrace every aspect of socio-economic factors.

They include land utilisation, forestry, drainage and irrigation, agriculture, trade, commerce and industry, education and training, housing, utilities, health, population migration, distribution and environment and pollution, settlement, employment, etc, etc. All these require well thought-out planning and implementation. All these need qualified, experienced and dedicated human resources.

5. It is in this context that I particularly welcome this conference. Although you will be studying and discussing primarily housing problems faced by the lower-income groups, nevertheless general questions relating to <sup>strategies</sup> policies, and programmes will unavoidably crop up. We will welcome your comments, suggestions and recommendations, and if necessary, we will act upon them.

I see that many working papers have been prepared for the conference. They range from policies and strategies of human settlements' planning and housing needs to standards for housing infrastructure. All these topics are highly relevant to Malaysia, especially at this juncture, when the Third Malaysia Plan will give a much greater emphasis and concentration to housing, especially for those in the lower-income group.

Apart from the working papers, I am  
 extremely glad to know that gathered at  
 this conference is a large group of participants  
from all walks of life --- architects, engineers,  
 planner and other highly qualified people ---  
 from the private sector, statutory bodies and  
 government ministries. <sup>is really a</sup> This partnership for  
progress. ~~and well-being of our people and~~  
~~undoubtedly guarantee our survival as a progressive,~~  
~~happy and united nation.~~

8. I am <sup>glad</sup> encouraged because it is <sup>necessary</sup> ~~vital~~ that each member of our society joins in the common endeavour to ensure the progress and well-being of the community and the nation as a whole. We need also to ensure that there is social justice, equitable sharing of income growth and increasing opportunities for employment. All our development plans must succeed as they are vital to our survival as a progressive, happy and united nation.

It is a challenge we <sup>all</sup> must meet, an opportunity we all must share and a responsibility we all must bear and shoulder. (~~Transition to Page 8~~)

9. may I take the opportunity to congratulate the members of the Organising Committee for arranging and holding the conference. The conference, I understand, is in preparation for the forthcoming international conference on Human Settlements organised by the United Nations in Vancouver later this year.

I would also like to take the opportunity of welcoming the participants from overseas.

Although their conference schedule is a heavy one, nevertheless, I hope that they will find some time to see our country and meet our people. May the conference be a great success. Lastly, there remains for me to do the least difficult part of my duty, and that is to declare this conference open.

Thank you.

**PERKHIDMATAN  
ARKIB PERDANA MENTERI**



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