

Tun: We MUST live within our means

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Kuala Lumpur, Sat

TUN Abdul Razak warned tonight that the Government may resort to measures which will bring "serious consequences" if it failed in its efforts to curtail expenditure in the face of falling export earnings.

Speaking at the Datuk Bandar's annual dinner, he said: "In the face of falling export earnings, we — the Government as well as individuals — cannot allow our expenditure to increase, which will mean that we will be living beyond our means.

"I ask all our people, in all walks of life, to stand by the Government in this difficult situation, which is beyond our control.

"There is no doubt that we must endeavour to reduce unnecessary expenditure and try to save as much as we can.

"Indeed, in many cases, we have to curtail expenditure."

Signs indicate that recession would have to be faced for quite some time.

Tun's appeal

Tun Razak said although the Government sympathised with employees in the lower-income groups, there was a limit to its expenditure.

He appealed to everyone to be considerate and to help the Government overcome the present situation.

"We cannot allow the Government to live beyond its means under any circumstances, and if we are unable to curtail expenditure in the face of falling export earnings we may have to resort to measures which will bring serious consequences," he said.

"It will, therefore, be the duty of the Govern-

Tun orders overhaul of traffic system in capital

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ment to curtail, as much as possible, unnecessary expenditure while at the same time proceed with economic development in order to sustain the growth of the economy."

On the Federal Territory, Tun Razak said the city could not escape socio-economic problems as it progresses as the nation's capital.

He cited the traffic situation and public transport as two such problems.

"I have directed the Ministry of Works and Transport and City Hall to overcome these problems."

He said it was clear that the city has to pro-

vide more public transport. The traffic system also needed improvement to overcome peak-hour congestions.

"Plans to overcome these problems will take time to implement, and I hope commuters will co-operate with the Government."

Tun Razak also said that with rapid industrialisation it would be necessary to provide amenities to meet the social needs of workers.

More houses need to be built for employees, especially industrial workers and lower-income groups.

He hoped that the administrative machinery of City Hall, which is being re-organised as a result of the separation from Selangor, would provide an efficient and dedicated service to the public.

On foreign policy, Tun Razak said it is important to consolidate the strength of Asean in order to realise the zone of neutrality in South-East Asia.

Malaysia, he added, would host an Asean Foreign Ministers' conference in May and it was hoped that the conference would enable the group to achieve greater progress through regional co-operation.