

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
ON THE DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATES 1961, AT
THE DEWAN RAKYAT¹ ON 26TH APRIL, 1961

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the expenditure amounting to \$26,917,083 under Head 114 be approved. Now, Sir, many of these items under this Head are continuation projects which have already been explained in this House and, therefore, I do not wish to take any more of the time of this House to explain them further.

There are several items under the various sub-heads which are new projects and which I will try to explain very briefly.

Sub-head 14: Barracks to be purchased from the U.K.

Under this sub-head there is a token vote of \$10 to be included for the purchase of barracks from the United Kingdom. We are not certain as to the amount of money required for the purchase of these barracks; therefore only a token amount has been put in. The word "barrack" here is, I would like to explain, to be used in its broader sense to include, for example, military hospitals and other utilities. Such funds as are required will have to be found from savings from the Five-Year Development Plan as a whole.

Sub-head 19: Naval Base

The sum of \$13,250,000 would be utilised together with the sum of \$6,750,000 under sub-head 38 for the construction of a Naval Base in the Federation. The sum of \$13,250,000 is shown as balance to complete the Naval Base after 1965, but the Government has recently decided that the construction of a Naval Base in the Federation should be proceeded with immediately and that funds required will be found from savings elsewhere in the Five-Year Development Plan. It is estimated that expenditure of approximately \$500,000 will be required in 1961 and possibly \$5,000,000 per year from 1962 to 1965 inclusive.

¹ Penggal Ketiga Dewan Rakvat yang Pertama.

Sub-head 20: Quarters, R.M.A.F. Station, Kuala Lumpur

The expansion of the Royal Malayan Air Force in aircraft and personnel necessitates the provision of quarters for the personnel. Of the sum of \$1,180,000 an amount of \$675,000 is necessary to bring existing quarters up to present strength and the balance is required to provide accommodation for personnel recruited in accordance with the R.M.A.F. expansion programme. It will be noted that of the total sum an amount of \$325,000 is deferred until after the end of the five-year period.

Sub-head 21: R.M.A.F. Expansion

The sum of \$9,611,000 is required to meet the costs of the new aircraft and spares required in order that the R.M.A.F. may take over the air supply commitment which the R.A.F. will relinquish at the end of 1962. The aircraft intended to be purchased are Cessnas, Doves and Pioneers.

Sub-head 23: Married Quarters, Territorial Army

The Territorial Army is still in the process of expansion and should be at thirty-battalion strength by the end of 1962. Married quarters are required for the permanent staff of the Territorial Army at the various battalion locations throughout the Federation and the proposed breakdown of the \$1,400,000 entails expenditure of \$200,000 in 1961, \$800,000 in 1962 and \$400,000 in 1963. The sum should provide a minimum of ten Officers' Quarters and twenty Senior NCOs' Quarters in Perlis, Trengganu and Kelantan which are the priority areas requiring accommodation.

Sub-head 24: Territorial Army Armouries

The sum of \$240,000 is required to build sixty Armouries in various Police compounds throughout the Federation in order that the arms of the Territorial Army members may be securely stored. The facilities of existing Police Stations are in most cases insufficient for providing additional storage space and it is essential that the Territorial Army arms are securely stored by the Police and for this purpose the new armouries need to be built. The rate of expenditure is estimated at \$140,000 in 1961 and the balance of \$100,000 in 1962.

Sub-head 55: Re-equipment with New Weapons

The total sum of \$8,556,000 is required to re-equip the Federation Army with new weapons since its present weapons are in many cases becoming beyond economical repair as a result of long service in the jungle while in other cases they are becoming obsolescent and as a result it is necessary to re-equip our armed forces. The re-equipment programme entails complete re-equipment with a new modern rifle which will also permit the Territorial Army to be re-equipped with those serviceable existing rifles now in use in the Regular Army. Other new equipment includes Carbines, Light Machine Guns as well as heavier weapons together with an initial stock of the requisite ammunition for each weapon. The programme of expenditure envisages \$3.63 million in 1961 and \$3.91 million in 1962 during which the major re-equipment will take place. Thereafter, \$510,000 is required in 1963, \$306,000 in 1964 and \$200,000 in 1965.

Sub-head 56: Supply of Spring Beds

The sum of \$150,000 to be spent equally over the period 1961 to 1963 is in conformity with the programme of modernisation and development in the Federation Armed Forces.

Sub-head 57: Technical Plant

The sum of \$123,000 of which the majority will be spent in 1961 is required for the purchase of technical equipment for the Supply Depot, Ordnance Depot and the Armed Forces Maintenance Corps Workshops. Since the Federation Armed Forces have ceased to be Estimate Customers on the British Armed Forces and have been obliged to set up their own Depots it is necessary for these Depots to be supplied with additional technical equipment.

Sub-head 58: Radio Equipment

The sum of \$2,500,000 is required to be expended in 1961 and 1962 in accordance with the policy of re-equipping the Federation Army in order to replace the obsolete radio equipments now held with modern equipment. Full consultation with the Telecommunications Department and the other Armed Services has taken place and the new makes of equipment have been agreed. The present equipment is not only obsolete but becoming beyond economical repair as a result of long service.

Sub-head 59: First Outfit Base Spares and Equipment

Although only a token vote of \$10 has been shown against the \$4,400,000 requirement it is anticipated that approximately \$1,000,000 per year will need to be found from savings on the Five-Year Development Plan as a whole. This equipment is required to provide the spare backing in the Federation for the new Naval Base which will be built during the five-year period. At present with the Royal Malayan Naval Base at Singapore the R.M.N, is over-dependent upon spares obtained from the Royal Navy and it is necessary for it to accumulate its own stores backing to be independent in the Federation.

Sub-head 60: New Patrol Craft

The total expenditure is envisaged at \$23,000,000 of which \$2.5 million has been entered in 1961, \$3 million in 1962 and \$2.5 million in 1963 with the balance of \$15,000,000 shown as required at the end of the five-year period. In fact it is estimated that the \$15 million balance will need to be found from savings in the Five-Year Development Plan as a whole. The new Patrol craft are required to replace and supplement the existing motor torpedo boats which were handed over when the Royal Malayan Navy was transferred from Singapore to the Federation but these boats are now too old and too slow to allow the Royal Malayan Navy to carry out its allotted role and tasks. Investigations are still in hand as to the most suitable replacement craft and the price of this craft will to a certain extent determine the number of new craft to be purchased.

Sir, I beg to move.