

MALAYSIANS NOT SUFFICIENTLY "ANIMAL CONSCIOUS"

Tun Razak criticised Malaysians, especially the rural people for not being sufficiently "animal conscious" \ According to him, they do not fully realise the benefits which can be obtained by them if they took more interest in the breeding of better livestock. His speech at the second annual conference of the Association of Veterinary Surgeons in Kuala Lumpur on 1st July, 1966. follows.

Your profession may not be the oldest profession in the world, but it has been in existence since the earliest times.

I know that the word *Veterinary* comes from the latin word *Veterinarius* which in English means "pertaining to beasts of burden." and even as far back as the year 274 B.C., there were Romans and Greeks in your profession who wrote books on Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry.

I have never been able, in my own mind, to differentiate clearly between veterinary science and animal husbandry* and I was even more confused the other day, when I met a lady at a party who referred to her "*animal husband*" because I did not know whether this reference to "animal husband" meant that her husband was a *veterinary* surgeon or merely that he behaved like an animal in his marital relations!

Later I discovered that her husband was not only a qualified Veterinary Surgeon, but that he had given up practising as a Vet to become a Police Officer, and, late one night his telephone bell rang and his wife answered.

She asked. "Do you want my husband in his capacity of a Veterinary surgeon or as a Police Officer?"

"Both Madam," came the reply. "We cannot get our new watchdog to open its mouth and there is a thief hand inside it!"

However, to refer to the more serious aspects of veterinary science and animal husbandry. I should like to remind you all that as members of your profession you have a very great and important part to play in the implementation of our First Malaysia Development Plan, with particular reference to our national aims in Rural Development.

In our last Five-Year Development Plan, considerable progress was made in this field. In 1960, the total value of animal products produced by our local animal industry was worth only about \$180 million, but over the five-year period, its value has increased to no less than \$350 million. This constitutes a 9.5 per cent growth per annum.

This record of achievement in animal husbandry' must be maintained, sustained, and *even increased* in the present Plan period, if we are to ensure an increase in the income of our rural people, by helping them to raise more and better quality livestock, *not only for sale*, but also for their own needs so that they can live on a higher animal protein diet, thus improving their health, and, at the same time, improving their standard of living.

To achieve this aim, the animal husbandry programme for the First Malaysia Plan involves an expenditure of \$28 million for Malaya, \$2.1 million for Sabah and \$3.7 million for Sarawak.

An animal Production Institute will be established in Malaya for research into pastures and the physiology and production of fast maturing livestock.

At animal husbandry stations throughout the country, the number of which will be increased during 1966-70, breeding schemes will be undertaken for the development of improved breeds of goats, sheep, buffalo, dairy cows, beef oxen and pigs.

The transmission to farmers of the results of the research activities of the government and knowledge pertaining to improved techniques of livestock husbandry and poultry raising will be carried out through extension services and training courses at animal husbandry stations and veterinary centres throughout the country.

Provision has been included for the establishment of several additional veterinary centres. The development of two dairy colonies at Batu Arang in Selangor and Pantai in Negri Sembilan will be completed. The two schemes will cover about 2,800 acres and accommodate about 2,800 head of cattle. Besides the advantages of resettling dairy farmers and improving their production methods, the project will be useful for experimentation into large scale tropical dairy farming.

In order to demonstrate the economic and technical feasibility of animal by-product industries, the Federal Veterinary Department will operate in Malaya an abattoir service on a pilot basis. This service will undertake the slaughtering of meat animals on proper lines and the utilisation to the fullest extent possible of by-products.

That, ladies and gentlemen, briefly is the summary of our present national aims in the field of animal husbandry, and there are one or two aspects of it which I should like to stress, I would like to suggest that from time to time, your association discuss in your meetings and suggest and put forward to government, ways and means whereby the implementation of this Plan can be made more and more effective.

I do not think I am being unfair to our rural people when I say that as a nation we are not yet sufficiently "animal conscious", and that those of our rural people who own livestock of one kind or another, do not fully realise the benefits which can be obtained individually by them if they take more interest in, and pay more attention to, the breeding of better livestock.

We are still importing a tremendous amount of meat and other livestock products, and if our rural people would only realise that in addition to paying attention to their rubber, paddy and other crops, they paid *equal attention* to the breeding, by correct methods, of increased livestock holdings, they would not only increase their income, not only be able to bring up their children on a more nutritious protein diet, but would also be doing a service to the nation in allowing us to cut down our importation of animal products and thus save valuable foreign exchange, and, at the same time, increasing our national economic stability.

There are thousands and thousands of acres of land reserved and set aside as animal grazing grounds throughout the whole country. It depresses me to see on my tours on rural development, that these large areas are *still under jungle*, while the livestock belonging to the kampong people roam freely uncared for and unheeded. I would like to see all veterinary officers in this country, supported by State Governments, make a determined effort, combined with a determined campaign, to get across to the rural people, the correct methods of breeding livestock and the correct use *of this vast unused acreage* of potential grazing ground

I. therefore, suggest to your Association that you work out an "Operation Order" for a massive national self-help programme to turn these grazing grounds from vast stretches of jungles into efficient, well-fenced, well-cared for grazing grounds, and. I am sure that it would be quite easy for government to supply finance for the necessary' material such as fencing and posts, and then it is up to the members of your profession to indoctrinate livestock owners with enthusiasm and obtain their co-operation both physically and mentally to carry out by self-help "gotong royong", and learn to breed wellcared for animals of both market and nutritional value.

Another aspect in the implementation of our animal husbandry programme, within the framework of our National Development Programme. is that, we must not *over-spread our resources by doing* too little over a large area, with the result of *no impact*.

Better that we concentrate our forces of development in animal husbandry in certain areas so that the impact is both effective and apparent, and then apply the same principle to other areas.

This association of professional Veterinary surgeons, can, if it is alive and active, generate ideas, suggestions, and intentions, which could have considerable impact on our national development implementation.

What is required at this stage of our development is to instil a spirit of self-reliance and to ensure that every single person in our country realises this fact. We can. if we determine to be the fastest developing country because our natural resources are abundant but what is now required is the spark of life to electrify the human contribution to our task of nation-building. In other words. Gerakan Maju is an exercise for the "re-discovery" of the latent talents which we know exist in abundance in every heart, mind, and body of our people.

— *Tun Razak in a talk to members of Gerakan Maju National Committee, heads of all departments concerned with extension services and to all State Development Officers.*

A CHEQUE FOR AMBUSH VICTIM



Tun Razak visits the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur on 19th June, 1968, to see the policemen injured in an ambush near Malaysia-Thailand border. Opportunity was taken by the Tun to present this patient a cheque on behalf of the Malaysian Government.