

The Pahang Government has already taken the initiative by setting up a Fraser's Hill Development Corporation. The vision of the future does not preclude a pattern of hill development stretching from Fraser's Hill to Cameron Highlands, and even further to the plateau of Terengganu. This may become a national asset making a tremendous contribution both to the development and health of our country as a food, meat and protein producing, agriculture area—to say nothing of the potential of crops such as coffee, tea, quinine, etc. This new agricultural area will, no doubt, ensure a supplement diet to our people without depending too much on canned and frozen imports.

THE SECOND CONGRESS BUMIPUTRA
MARA'S SUCCESS HAS ALREADY SURPASSED ALL
EXPECTATIONS

The success achieved so far by such new organisations as the MARA, the FAMA, the Federal Land Rehabilitation and Consolidation Authority and Bank Bumiputra was recalled by Tun Abdul Razak when he gave the keynote address at the opening of the Second Congress Bumiputra at Dewan Tunku Abdul Rahman on 7th September, 1968. He urged those present, in their deliberations, to focus on the future and not waste time on petty matters of the past "but rather illuminate your ideas with the hope of the future"

With the holding of this Second Congress, you see for yourselves that the Alliance Government is true to its promise that it will review the various efforts undertaken by the Government to implement projects and programmes for improving the economic livelihood of the Bumiputra. The Alliance Government not only stands firm on its promises but also stands firm in fulfilling whatever it promises.

The Alliance Government stands ready and willing to face the People, so that the people can decide and judge for themselves

whether or not the Alliance Government has fulfilled its promises to provide greater opportunities for the people to improve themselves.

Chairman, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me ask you a question.

What is the similarity between

- - - a bad husband;
- - - a bad civil servant: and
- . . . a bad politician?

There is no difference between them.

- - - A bad husband runs away from his wife;
- - - A bad civil servant runs away from his files; and
- - - A bad politician runs away from his promises!

But this is not the practice of the Alliance Government. As I have said earlier, we stand firm on our promises to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of our people—we stand firm and determined to fulfil whatever promises that we have made. It is precisely because of this that the Government decides to hold this Second Congress so that we can review the implementation of the resolutions which I have accepted at the previous Congress—so that, we can find out new ways and means which can bring about the fulfilment of the hopes of our people in the economic life of our country. Never have we once run away from our promises. But we continue to give more and bigger opportunities to the ra*ayat so that our people, especially those who live in the rural areas, are given the chance to improve their livelihood.

I suggest to you that the keynote of this Congress is not to sit back on our laurels, not to participate in a post-mortem of the past, but to keep our eyes and minds steadily focussed on the targets of the future so that we can advance further at even greater pace than we have moved forward in the last three years.

Let me remind you that not only am I a Minister of Development, but Defence and the Armed Forces also come within my portfolio.

Is there any army in the world that can march forward and at the same time look backwards? No. One has got to look ahead, think ahead, be ahead and move ahead!

Therefore, let us not dissipate our energies by debating the past, because neither this Congress nor the Cabinet, nor the nation can change the past

What this Congress can do is to determine the course of our future progress. Most of us who are here today attended the first Konggres Ekonomi Bumiputra. You will recollect that for three days, in the first week of June, 1965, we were gathered in this Hall to pool our mental and intellectual resources and also our experiences in working out a comprehensive strategy for the third phase in the Government's efforts to promote and accelerate the effective participation of the Bumiputra in the economic life of our country.

We gathered in this Hall to consider ways and means of achieving the declared objective of the Alliance Government to promote economic growth and stability in Malaysia so that every Malaysian, be he a farmer, a rubber-tapper, a fisherman, a small businessman or a worker in a factory would be able to contribute in every sphere of life of our young nation. Yes. we gathered here to examine, in the best tradition of our democratic life to which the Alliance Government is deeply committed and this was amply demonstrated in the freedom of every participant to express his views, the vital and complex problems faced by the nation in its efforts to bring to fruition what I call economic democracy in this country.

The most important result of the intensive discussions and exchange of experiences was a rededication by all. the participants of the Konggres, the ra'ayat and the Government to the national cause of removing economic imbalances in this country.

In accepting the 69 resolutions of the Konggres I said the Alliance Government would do its best and all possible to the people.

We must face and accept the undeniable fact that the implementation of the resolutions is not the sole responsibility of the Government, but also of the Konggres and the ra'ayat.

The resolutions and the wishes of the ra'ayat will only be realised if everyone of us. the Ministers, the Memebhrs of Parliament, the representatives of the people, the Government servants, the Penghulus. the Ketua2 Kampong and the ra'ayat work in unity with one mind and one heart towards the implementation of the resolutions.

The Prime Minister, the other Ministers and I have no magic wand or formula for success; the ingredients of success are one's firm and irrevocable determination to achieve it and hard work. Success can only be possible if everyone of us in this hall and outside it strives hard and works hard towards gaining our national objectives in economic development.

The first Konggeres has given birth to a number of organisations which form the major bridge-heads in our national advance towards getting fair and equitable participation by all in the economic life of the country. I refer to the birth of such important organisations like MARA, FAMA, Federal Land Rehabilitation and Consolidation Authority and Bank Bumiputra.

Ladies and gentlemen, you asked me to bury RIDA, body, soul and ghost together so that we rid ourselves, once and for all, the traces of the feeble and half-hearted attempts by our former colonial masters at removing the economic imbalances in our country.

I have also nursed MARA within the past two and a half years to a healthy and a fast growing adult as you see it today. I have appointed Yang Berhormat Encik' Abdul Ghafar bin Baba, a dynamic man of high calibre, to be Chairman of MARA. He is assisted by a Deputy Chairman, Yang Berhormat Dato' Haji Mustapha, a leader who has always been working closely with the ra'ayat and who knows the hopes and aspirations of the ra'ayat.

I do not intend to talk at length on the activities of MARA, but I would like to say this: for the past two years MARA has opened up a number of industrial ventures, such as the establishment of batek and shirt factories, the leather factory, the National Timber Corporation, the Amanah Saham MARA and others. MARA has given out substantial credits to Bumiputra businessmen and entrepreneurs, and helped them with professional advice. MARA has also been able to participate actively in the transport services.

MARA has invested millions of dollars in the training of thousands of Bumiputra in the professional, technical and vocational fields both at home and abroad. One of the major undertakings of MARA in the field of training the Bumiputra

is the establishment of the MARA Institute of Technology. I can only say that MARA's progress in this field has surpassed all expectations.

At the time when the first Konggeres was held, that was in 1965. the then Dewan Latehan R1DA had a student population of 100. At the time I am speaking now, there are 2.450 students in the MARA Institute of Technology taking courses from Accountancy to Computer-Science. The Institute is now actively working out a plan for the establishment of a school of engineering within its multi-million dollar complex at Batu Tiga.

I have no doubt in my mind this represents great strides forward and also reflects the spirit, imagination and vision with which MARA has set out to implement the major resolutions of the first Konggeres. In a few years' time we will be having thousands of trained young Bumiputra graduating from the Institute and from training institutions abroad and taking their rightful place in our expanding economy. I am sure they will be in a better position not only to participate, but also participate effectively in the economic life of the country, especially in the field of commerce and industry.

Similarly, the other organisations like FAMA and Bank Bumiputra have started to operate with a degree of success. I do not intend to elaborate on the success of these organisations. However, our Muslims Savings Corporation has not only been operating successfully, but also with impact. It has helped intending pilgrims to save so that the savings could be invested in a number of industrial ventures. It has also given help in a number of ways to intending pilgrims to perform the Haj.

Up to date, the Corporation has more than 38.000 depositors whose total savings amount to more than S10 million. With the investment of these savings in industrial and commercial undertakings. the Bumiputra concerned are indirectly participating in commerce and industry. The scope of this Corporation will be widened when the existing Department of Pilgrimage Affairs is integrated with the Muslims Savings Corporation. When these two organisations have been integrated into one single corporation, intending pilgrims will not only be able to save money but also will enjoy better facilities right from the time they leave their homes to the time of their home coming.

However, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to remind you that not only have we, as a nation, advanced tremendously in the field which particularly concerns this Konggeres—the area of Bumiputra participation, but also within the whole framework of national development, we continue to progress.

The FLDA now has no less than 75 land development schemes, and progress continues at a fast rate on the implementation of the Jengka triangle complex which will be the largest land scheme in the country. At the same time, preliminary planning is going ahead to open up two, perhaps three land schemes of the same magnitude as the Jengka triangle.

The Muda River and many other large irrigation schemes are well on the way towards completion and once in operation, will bring tremendous benefit to the standard of living of our padi planters in our rural areas.

Furthermore, a nation-wide survey on transportation has just been completed. Plans will soon be on the way for its implementation to open up new roads and new land, and to help us to ensure that we develop the natural resources of our nation to the full.

We are pressing ahead with our Agricultural Diversification Programme so that economically, we, as a nation, will not have to depend on precarious world price of rubber,

Tremendous strides are being made in doubling and trebling agricultural training facilities in order to step up extension services by conveying modern agricultural techniques to the farmers in our rural areas.

Such efforts are directed towards improving the position of our farmers and smallholders so that they will be in a better position to increase their productivity. These efforts, mobilised under the drive for Jayadiri which has been launched by the Government, will promote a change in their attitude and make them ready to accept changes brought about by science and technology. With the change in attitude and with the assistance of scientific and technical innovations, our natural resources can be exploited to the maximum extent.

In the field of industry. Batu Tiga industrial site together with many other industrial estates throughout the country are fast

developing, and both local and international investors are proving their faith both in the economic and political stability of our country by investing their money in all kinds of industries, giving both employment and economic growth to Malaysia.

We are on schedule and on time, in the implementation of our present Malaysia Five-Year Development Plan.

A critical review of our progress is currently being carried out. While at the same time we are preparing the framework of the next five-year plan period. These and many other national development projects are under way. My advice to your Konggres is that, in all your discussions and deliberations, think in the broader context of the overall development aims and plans of our nation as a whole, and do not be petty and narrowminded in the views you express.

In the next few days, perhaps, the fruits of your discussions may lead to some bright development idea which has not been thought of before.

If you do this, the timing is perfect. As I have just said, we are in the process of planning ahead for our next five-year plan, and if your ideas are reasonable, sensible, sound and practical, then the Government will consider including them in the second Malaysia Five-Year Plan.

Talking of new ideas. I would like myself to give you a few suggestions which you may consider and examine in the course of your deliberations.

As I have already said, much progress has really been made in all spheres of our economic activity, but to intensify Bumiputra participation in industry for the next ten years and in the field of commerce, there may be merit in the setting up of a Sharikat Perniagaan Kebangsaan to give added opportunity to the Bumiputra to participate not only in the exploitation of our natural resources, but also in export, import and agency business.

I visualise that this proposed corporation will not only accumulate large capital resources, but also establish subsidiaries for carrying out its diverse operations.

This corporation can act as a nucleus for bigger things to come, because as a big organisation with subsidiaries, it will have a high credit rating which will enable it to raise funds by borrowing

and syphoning in international capital. It will also be in a better position to negotiate and carry out joint ventures with both local and international participation.

The greatest advantage of this corporation is that it will be managed and controlled by the Bumiputra. and it can also attract and mobilise capital participation from the Bumiputra themselves

Ladies and gentlemen, the Bank Bumiputra has grown from strength to strength. In addition to giving short-term capital to entrepreneurs and acting as a savings institution for the Bumiputra. the Bank Bumiputra has up-to-date almost 10.000 Bumiputera depositors who have deposited a total amount of more than three and a half million dollars.

Indeed, this is a success, but I suggest that we should folios it up with the establishment of a National Finance Corporation under the auspices of the Bank Bumiputra.

This Finance Corporation will further attract capital accumulation from all sectors of our economy including the Bumiputera. The capital so accumulated will not only be available for meeting our long-term demands on capital, it will go into fields in which under present circumstances, neither the Bank Bumiputra nor and established bank constituted under the Banking Ordinance can participate directly because a properly established finance corporation has in practice flexibility and discretion in giving credits to finance ventures and is not tied to rigidity of orthodox banking operations.

Another area of exploration for new ideas is the field of insurance business. Scope also exists for the Bumiputra to participate in this business because most of the insurance companies operating in our country, with the exception of six. arc foreign incorporated.

Figures for the last few years have shown a steady growth in the insurance business in our country. In 1963 alone, the premium incomes amounted to S80.8 million whereas in 1966, \$1208 million—an increase of \$40 million. This represents an average increase of not less than S10 million a year.

It is most likely that the present trend will continue to shot an even greater increase over the next ten years as our pace a economic development and expansion quickens.

As personal incomes increase with increasing prosperity of country, more and more people will buy policies. There is, of

course, scope for expansion in the re-insurance sector, and for attracting premia from statutory authorities, like NEB, FLDA, MARA and FAMA.

I hope, therefore, that you in this Konggres consider the merits of establishing a National Insurance Company.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, these are the few ideas that I wish to offer to this Konggres. I hope everyone of you will consider and examine the implementation of these three financial and business institutions.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen. I sincerely hope that each and everyone of you will, in your deliberations, focus on the future and not waste time on petty matters of the past, but rather illuminate your ideas with the hope of the future; the past we cannot change. Our strength, as a nation, lies in taking stock of our achievements so far, thinking ahead and planning ahead so that our intentions and our plans are sound. When the time comes to the opening of the third Konggres, we will be able to meet here again and take pride in the originality of our ideas and plans and in the success of their implementation. Thank you.



Tun Razak visiting the Seeing Section of the MARA Batek factory in Petaling Jaya on 9th September, 1968. With him is the Manager of the Factory while behind the Tun is Senator Abdul Ghaffar, Chairman of MARA.