

OPERATION "GOOD CITIZEN" ALLIANCE RALLY
AT THE DEWAN TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN
KUALA LUMPUR, ON 22ND JULY 1967

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although I work from day-to-day with my Cabinet Colleague Tun Tan Siew Sin, I have never really known what his real opinion of me in fact is, but he has to-day raised my hopes in so much that he has asked me to come and address this meeting of Operation "Good Citizenship". He must, therefore, be of the opinion that I am in fact a good citizen; otherwise, he would not have invited me to address you, but chosen someone else. I thank you Sir for the compliment!

I am greatly honoured to be with you here to-day, and to be asked to launch this Operation "Good Citizen".

As we all know that on 31st of August next month, we celebrate not only our annual Merdeka Day, but also, ten years of Independence, ten years of progress, ten years of prosperity, and ten years further forward in the task of nation-building!

We can look back on those ten years with pride, and we can also look forward to the next ten years with hope, but let us examine for a moment what is now necessary in our country if our hopes for the next ten years are to be fulfilled.

It was the declared policy of the Alliance Government, when we attained Independence, to set about with vigour and determination on the task of developing our country, the task of building a sound economic infra-structure with all the essentials for future growth and prosperity by building better schools with better educational systems; by building better hospitals and clinics with a more efficient health service; by building better roads and opening up new land for greater output and greater prosperity; and also implementing many thousands of other projects, too numerous to mention, but nevertheless, essential to enable Malaysia to prosper. All this we have done!

We can, with modesty, be proud of what we have achieved, what the Alliance Government has achieved in the last ten years, but we must also make these achievements **secure**, we must **consolidate** our gains and protect them from destruction, if we are to ensure that Malaysia will further progress in the next ten years, we, therefore, must let no one attempt to destroy the firm foundation, the firm rock of our development base which, with our own labours and our own resources, we have already firmly established.

Malaysia, already, throughout the free world has obtained a reputation as a progressive and stable nation; we are already attracting world interest in trade, in commerce and in industry.

But let me be frank with you.

These achievements can be destroyed **over-night** by irresponsible action on the part of a selfish minority who by their illegal actions and their resorting to

irresponsible and undemocratic methods, and Communist tactics, can lower our standing and our status, can lower our standing and our reputation throughout the world, and turn away from Malaysia the fine prospect of prosperity which already lies so clearly ahead of us!

This irresponsible minority who are definitely disloyal to Malaysia also provide a fertile area within our shores on which the seeds of subversion can thrive and thus threaten our sovereignty and our security which we have been at pains for the last ten years to make absolutely safe from both internal and external aggression.

Independence means liberty, and there is an abundance of liberty both in our Constitution and in our country, but these minorities of unruly people do not understand the meaning of liberty; "Liberty is the right to do what the laws **allows**: and if a citizen can do what the laws **forbids**, then there will be no longer liberty because all others will have the same powers to break the laws; in other words, free will is not the liberty to do whatever one likes, but the power of choice to do what is **right** and what ought to be done for the benefit of our nation".

When we talk about good citizenship and when we mention this word, it does not imply in any way that we are in any way disputing the loyalty of our people, the loyalty of Chinese, Malay and Indians who are true Malaysians, and this has already been proved; proved during the twelve years of Emergency and during the toil and turmoil of confrontation and in all other aspects in our day-to-day life; this loyalty of our people has been proved in words, deeds and action!

You know that in addition to my portfolio as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Defence and Minister of Development, I have also taken the Portfolio as Minister of Home Affairs.

We have a large bill to pay for Internal Security to secure our national sovereignty and to secure our development!

We have made progress over the last ten years, but the greatest investment in Internal Security is not so much of having more policemen, more weapons and a large Special Branch, the main weapon against subversion and against Communist domination is the **human weapon of public opinion** expressed firmly by true and loyal citizens, expressed by a majority of people who know what is right, and stick to what is right and are not influenced by irresponsible people.

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, in launching an "Operation such as this, first and foremost, we must be absolutely clear in our own minds as to what we believe a really good citizen stands for, and what in fact has he to put into practice in his day-to-day life.

What in fact is the motivation behind each and everyone's individual life here in Malaysia?

Apart from the obvious motives of keeping ourselves alive, providing for ourselves and our children and our grand-children, and trying to be successful in our own particular walk of life, there must be deeper motives, and higher principles if we, as citizens of Malaysia, are going to forge ahead and make Malaysia, the Malaysia of the future, into a really prosperous nation!

As I see it, the basic essential is first on the part of all of us to acquire a **spirit of dedication**, to the principles for which our country stands; dedication to the democratic way of life which we practice, and **dedication** to the development of our country.

The second essential is to have both the **determination and courage** to stand by everything **we know** to be right for the benefit of our country; in other words, the courage to choose what we know in our hearts is right and to stand-by it through thick and thin, and in no way allow ourselves to be influenced by irresponsible subversive elements.

The third essential of a good citizen is to be honest not only with himself, but in all his dealings with his **fellow-citizens**, because the **only substitute** for honesty is corruption.

Nations have fallen apart and disintegrated in which honest policies did not exist and corruption took the place of honesty.

By corruption, I do not only mean corruption in the practice of government. After all, it is a corrupt public who are really responsible for the corruption of potentially dishonest government servants, and unless we build up a clean and pure public consisting of really honest citizens, then there will always be the danger of the nation becoming corrupt as a whole.

Therefore, it is the **duty** of every good citizen to **practice honesty** in his daily life, and so acquire the quality of integrity, and then we will have built up a nation which can add to its other many good qualities - the quality of national integrity!

The next essential which is of vital importance to us in Malaysia, and this is perhaps the most important quality required to be practised by our present-day citizens - the quality of tolerance, the ability for each and every one of us, irrespective of our racial origin to live in harmony each with one another - because without harmony there will be no unity, without unity there will be no progress, and without progress there will be no prosperity!

Let us determine, therefore, to be good and tolerant citizens, and achieve this harmony and unity which deep in our hearts we all so ardently desire.

These essentials, in my opinion, are the main guide-lines by which we can build up really good Malaysian Citizens, irrespective of what racial origin they may be, and I sincerely hope that the National Committee which you are to set up to run this Operation will be able to spell out and in more detail, ways and means of both propagating and practising these principles.

I hope also that this Committee will lay emphasis on a subject very near my heart.

As I have said so many times before, our Alliance Policy is not ever to accentuate differences of racial origins of our people, but to accentuate and focus on our **similarities** so that we can work, live and strive together as one unified people, the people of Malaysia.

I would go further than this and say that it is now our duty not only to **accentuate** our existing similarities, but to **develop** from day-to-day **new similarities** which will make us more and more Malaysian - minded in order to live together in **closer contact** with each other with greater harmony and

understanding, so that in time to come we will all become meaningful Malaysian Citizens.

Lastly, Ladies and Gentlemen, true citizenship must come **from within**, from the **motivation** of our own **hearts!**

Tun Tan Siew Sin mentioned the National Flag and the national Anthem.

Let us go back in history to the origin of flags.

Hundred of years ago, the "Flag" or "Standard" was the rallying point in the battle-field for soldiers to rally, unite, and fight!

Our National Flag is our **rallying** point for unity, not to fight wars, and not to be aggressive in battle; but it is the rallying point to fight **for**unity, for harmony, for development, and to win the battle of progress and prosperity, united together with one aim and one purpose - the purpose of making a better Malaysia!

And the National Anthem, like our Flag, is a **similar symbol** of unity, the only difference being it is in words and music, but it is nevertheless symbolic of our unity.

Let us respect both our flag and our anthem and always remember the National significance of both!

Let us hope, therefore, that this Operation "Good Citizen" will set us thinking, and when every citizen stands before our Flag or before our National Anthem, he will be able to say, "Malaysia **first** and self **second**; Malaysia is part of me because I am part of Malaysia".