

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OVER RADIO MALAYSIA ON 22ND APRIL, 1964

I am going to talk on Development and when I think of what we have achieved I am always very happy and proud of it.

As all of you remember we suffered for twelve years when we had to fight and get rid of the Communist terrorists but, at the time, a considerable amount of development took place in the urban areas. Look at Petaling Jaya and all the other urban development throughout the country. Industrial development went on in the towns despite the Emergency, but in the rural areas no one could move, no one could cultivate their land without being searched by the Police, no one could take any food with them while working, no new land was opened up. There were no soil surveys, no mineral surveys. No timber surveys could be carried out.

In other words all the basic planning for development in the rural areas was delayed because all our energies were concentrated on getting rid of the Communist menace.

When the Alliance took over the Government after the last election, we decided to correct this imbalance of development. We launched our present Five-Year Plan with a tremendous drive on National Development, coincidental with the ending of the Emergency, with particular emphasis in the rural areas.

You must remember that, for some years to come until we are fully industrialised, we are essentially a primary producing Nation. Our National Economic Growth at the moment depends on the production of such basic crops as rubber, oil palm and other produce. Also, our timber industry. As long as we remain a primary producing Nation, we cannot separate rural from urban development. In actual fact, the better our rural economy is, the stronger will be our urban economy and development.

In 1960 we launched our present National Five-Year Plan. We launched it with drive and determination. In order to make sure that the maximum results were achieved in the shortest period of time, we set up in every State, and in every District a Development Operation Room on the same lines as this Operation Room we are in now. In this way we could keep

our finger on the pulse of day-to-day progress and push on with the plan.

I am proud to say that in every sector of our Development Plan we have made progress beyond all expectations. Thousands of development projects have been completed in the last three years, thousands of classrooms, thousands of acres of land opened up, thousands of miles of roads, new health centres, drainage and irrigation schemes. This National Development has increased the standard of living of our people and the prosperity of our Nation.

ROADS: Before we started this Development Plan one of the greatest difficulties of the rural people was that they had no access to their kampongs except perhaps by bicycle track. Today the Government maintain more than 5,000 miles of rural roads and almost every kampong is now easily reached by road.

You can see from this chart: 1960,1961,1962,1963/64, how, with our drive in development, the Government increased the road mileage from year to year. This is quite an achievement when you compare it to the lack of development in pre-Merdeka days.

This means that the Government are able to provide greater services to the kampong people in the form of mobile clinics, information film units, and also kampong produce, such as rubber, coconut and other produce can be taken to market more easily and more speedily.

LAND: No less than fifty Federal Land Development Schemes have been successfully established by the Alliance Government resulting in the opening up and eventual development of no less than 200,000 acres of land which will give promise, hope and financial security to over 16,000 families who, before the Alliance Government's action, were mostly landless.

With a positive and progressive land policy designed and implemented by the Alliance Government, State Governments have alienated no less than 128,000 acres for smallholders.

This is a magnificent record but the Alliance Government have plans for even bigger and better land development schemes in the future, one of which is a 200,000 acres scheme in Pahang for which basic planning has already been done.

HEALTH: The Alliance Government now maintain no less than 240

dispensaries and also 150 mobile dispensaries, 160 health centres, 94 sub-health centres and 428 midwife clinics.

The Health Services in the rural and urban areas have been improved beyond all recognition and the Rural Health Programme is steadily expanding day by day. In the towns and urban areas new hospitals have been planned and, in many cases, work is on the way. The new Maternity Hospital in Kuala Lumpur is already doing great service and work on the new Faculty of Medicine in the University of Malaya is off to a good start and is on schedule.

Before Merdeka, the Dental Clinic was unheard of thing but today in our country we now have no less than 245 Dental Clinics serving our people.

The completion of the new Faculty of Medicine in our University will increase considerably the intake of medical students and do much to alleviate the shortage of doctors by which our Health Programme is handicapped at the moment. In addition to the Health Programme the Alliance Government have made tremendous strides in the training of staff to man our health services both in the rural and urban areas. For example over one thousand student nurses are at present under training and 130 student doctors are under training on Government scholarships.

EDUCATION: We inherited from the Colonial Regime a completely dead-beat educational system: but, with planning, pressure and positive action, during our term of office we have increased, throughout the country, the total number of school classrooms from an absolute minimum to a total of approximately 30,000 classrooms.

In addition we have increased the enrolment of school-going children to 1.2 million, and, in order that their education is, and always will be of the highest standard, we have given facilities for the training of teachers at an extremely high standard, now totalling no less than 46,000 trained teachers.

Apart from the great advance the Alliance Government has made with Education, the most interesting thing is the introduction of the new comprehensive schools with effect from 1965. This will do away with the modern secondary schools entrance examination — the hated 11 plus examination.

Parents will now be happy to know that their children can have nine uninterrupted years of education up to the age of 15 years. As a result of this new idea of comprehensive schools the human potential of our

children will be improved so as to assist in National Development. Even factories in this country can advance more rapidly because our new educational system will provide semi-skilled young men and women.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: Our Industrial Development Programme is going ahead with speed and vigour. We have four new industrial areas, at Petaling Jaya, Tasek in Perak, Sungai Mak Mandin in Province Wellesley and Tampoi in Johore. Two more new industrial sites are coming up, one at Seremban and another at Batu Tiga on the Klang Road.

In addition to the existing 102 pioneer industries, 28 new applications for industries have been approved in principle and a further 91 applications are at present being processed.

The setting up of all these new industries is giving employment to many thousands of our people in the towns and urban areas.

Within the next few days it is you who are going to decide whether this country goes forward. You, as much as the Alliance Government, are a partner in the progress of Malaysia. I do not care about Socialism, Communism, Neo-Colonialism or Capitalism. I give you what is the most important-ism not only in Malaysia but in Southeast Asia today. It is Alliance-ism, it is the unity of purpose of every clear-thinking citizen of this country. It is an example to the world of what real progress can be made. Development is our defence, discord is our danger. We will show Soekarno that we can crush confrontation with Alliance-ism. Give us your support — together we **will** secure the destiny of Malaysia.