

NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER, ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1965

Today Malaysia enters its third year of existence — 1966. The year that has just passed saw the separation of Singapore from the rest of Malaysia on 9th August, 1965. As we all know, the decision to separate Singapore from the rest of Malaysia was made for the sake of peace and security of the people of the two territories. The differences between the Government of Malaysia and Singapore have gone to such an extent that it would engulf the country into serious racial trouble unless action was taken to reduce tension. It was hoped that with separation Malaysia and Singapore which have many inseparable ties of history, geography and economy would move forward as two independent territories in cooperation and in friendship.

Throughout 1965, I am very proud of the way in which our people of all races in all parts of the country have manifested their loyalty and have stood solidly behind the Government in facing the threat to the country, both from aggression from without and subversion from within. Our youths have responded magnificently to the National Service call-up and have joined the various voluntary services in the defence of our country. There is still a small section of our people who are indulging in anti-Malaysia and anti-National activities and their presence in our midst constitutes a threat to our Society.

I call upon all true Malaysians of all races to be on guard and to be in a state of preparedness against the threat to our security and to devote all their energies and efforts towards the development and progress of our people and our country.

As has been stated many a time, it is the cardinal principle of the alliance Government to weld together our people of diverse racial origins so that in diversity we will have real unity. It is our determination to eliminate imbalances in our unity. It is our determination to eliminate imbalances in our society so that we will have a just society with a more equitable distribution of wealth, bridging the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" of all races closer. We want to provide plenty for all Malaysians, irrespective of race, colour and creed. It is our aim and prayer to provide a better and happier life to all our people.

As an earnest example of the Government's intention, the Government has just introduced in Parliament a bold and imaginative Economic Development plan for the next five years. Despite mounting ex-

penditure in defence and security the Government has decided to allot a large sum of money for development. The Government is sincerely determined to maintain the tempo of development both in Malaya and in Sabah and Sarawak so that our people, particularly the "have-nots" and those who live in the rural areas will be able to obtain better amenities of life and to have a standard of living compatible with a decent civilised society.

The implementation of this Development Plan calls for hard work and sacrifices of our people from Malaysians of all races. Success of a Development Plan must not depend only on investment of Government funds but also on the investment of human efforts. I would therefore like to call upon all our people to work harder and to devote all their energies and efforts in whatever work they are doing as their contribution towards the implementation of our Development Programme and towards the progress and happiness of our country. The successful implementation of this First Malaysian Development Plan will carry our people further forward towards the goal of progress and prosperity. We in the Government will do all we can to see that this Plan is successfully implemented.

The Alliance Government has been in power for the years and during this decade it has not only maintained but greatly strengthened harmony and goodwill and friendship among the different races. It has also brought Malaysia greater prosperity for all our people. The aim of the Alliance Government is to build a strong united Malaysian nation and of a just and satisfying society for its multi-racial and multi-cultural population. Therefore let all resolve to work harder towards the achievement of this aim of a united and happier Malaysia.

As you know I have just paid an official visit to Burma. The goodwill visit was very successful and fruitful, in that, it has further strengthened the ties of friendship between our two countries.

In the course of this visit I called on His Excellency General Ne Win, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and of the Council of Ministers. I feel greatly honoured that His Excellency General Ne Win showed me so much warmth, cordiality and friendship. We played golf together on two afternoons, and this gave us many opportunities to discuss matters of common interest in an atmosphere of cordiality and understanding. In our discussions which ranged over a wide field, we touched on economic and political developments in South East Asia. We agreed that such an exchange of views on vital matters of mutual interest is beneficial to both countries.

The goodwill visit has provided us with the opportunity to learn more about each other's efforts to improve the standard of living of

our respective peoples. Burma and Malaysia being developing countries are anxious to devote their entire resources to economic development and national consolidation. In this respect there is a strong conviction in both countries that all nations should have the right to choose freely their own economic and political system in keeping with their national interests and aspirations.

I was happy to have explained to me certain aspects of Burma's foreign policy. On the solution to international issues, Malaysia shares the same view with Burma that such issues should be resolved through peaceful negotiations on the basis of respect for independence and territorial integrity of each country.

I delivered an invitation from the Prime Minister of Malaysia to His Excellency General Ne Win to visit Malaysia. I am happy that His Excellency has accepted the invitation, and I hope that he would be able to visit Malaysia soon.

I wish to thank the Burmese Government for affording me and my delegation the opportunity to visit several places of interest such as Taunggyi, Inle Lake, Defence Services Command and General Staff College of Kalaw, Mandalay and the Air Force Training School at Meiktila. Wherever I went I was touched by the sincere and unreserved expressions of welcome and goodwill. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the Burmese Leaders, Military Officers and other Government Officials who have made this visit such a fruitful, enjoyable and memorable one.

On this New Year Day I would like to thank every Malaysian everywhere for his support and loyalty to the country. Together with hard work and in unity we can make Malaysia happier and a prosperous country in which we and our children will be proud to live. I wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

May God Bless Us All.