

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TO THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS AT HOTEL MERLIN, KUALA LUMPUR ON 6TH NOVEMBER, 1965

This is the second time in a month I have the honour and pleasure of addressing the members and friends of National Union of Journalists. Thank National Union of Journalists for this kindness and hospitality to the members of Government and to you personally in particular.

I am touched by the civic consciousness of National Union of Journalists in having a special luncheon to mark the end of Berjaya and National Solidarity Week. On behalf of Government I wish to thank you all for your loyalty and support to the Government's efforts to build a united Malaysian nation out of multi-racial Malaysia.

Our aim for a united Malaysian nation will be fulfilled in a shorter time if there are patriotic organisations such as the NUJ. I understand and am very glad to know what NUJ devotes equal time to creating civic and national consciousness among members and readers and to fighting for better wages, better working conditions for journalists in this country.

The Alliance Government sympathises with the aspirations of Malaysian journalists for better salaries, standard of living and greater opportunities for advancement and higher training in journalism. I can assure you all that the Alliance Government will support NUJ in all its fair and reasonable demands towards achieving this aspiration. (I hope you'll include this one year speech because it is important that you identify yourself with this influential group of people. The journalists will be flattered and you would have left a good image of yourself if you follow this suggestion).

Throughout National Solidarity Week all Malaysians were given various opportunities to demonstrate their loyalty to Malaysian concept and to this nation. From all reports we knew that more Malaysians are now "less-race conscious" and indeed there is a greater tendency, which we all must encourage, towards a true Malaysian nationalism or consciousness. I am very happy to see the determination of all loyal Malaysians to help the Government strengthen the spirit of unity among the various races and the consolidation of our national solidarity.

All in all, the National Solidarity Week was a success and I hope next year's celebration will be on a grander scale and with greater participation by the people and workers in this country.

The spirit of unity and national solidarity is important not only when we are being confronted by enemies from within and without, but also for the efficient and rapid political and national development of the country and for its future.

The National Solidarity Week as I have said before, was a success, but we can still and indeed we must, inculcate in the minds of our people greater love for their country, to encourage greater willingness and readiness to make sacrifices in the defence of this country and our way of life.

The Government is satisfied with the loyalty of all races in the country but the Government would indeed welcome greater manifestation of their patriotism. We would welcome more volunteers to join civil defence organisation and other auxiliary agencies to help reinforce our National Armed Forces in order to ensure victory over our enemies and to guarantee the survival of Malaysia and our way of life.

I would like to see the number of civic and public-spirited Malaysians grow in all walks of life doing and taking interest in various city, welfare and educational institutions in our country.

The Alliance Government all along believes that in order to have a nation the various races must first be integrated. We realise that this is the basis of our survival. We cannot be a really united nation until we fully integrate the various races.

The Alliance Government is working towards achieving this. All our policies especially the Educational Policy are geared towards this end. But we also believe that this must be achieved gradually other-wise communal tension will destroy the nation.

The Alliance believes that in order to achieve this united Malaysian nation, a nation worth dying for, then all inequalities both political and economic that exist on our country must be eradicated. Political equality must be reciprocated with economic and social parity. Besides trying to build a united Malaysian nation we also must teach the people to have a spirit of self-reliance and self-respect, especially those in the rural areas.

Malaysia is more competent to forge and build a multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious society — because we have all the ingredients that will make this multi-racial society a reality. The population is nicely balanced, political powers is well apportioned. In some countries (we must talk like this sometime, you need not name the country) they

only talk about building and multi-racial and multi-cultural country and they know that no such society can emerge when one race dominates another. Multi-racial society in Malaysia is a success because our greatest assets are "Dignity and moderation".

Dignity and Moderation are Malaysia's salient characteristics and that is why the various races are happy here and why Malaysia is the bright spot in troubled and war-threatened Sout East Asia.

With patience, tolerance and spirit of compromise and goodwill we had succeeded in establishing a strong and stable Government. I am sure with patience and tolerance we will also succeed in building a United Malaysian Nation.

Newspapers must play a special role in creating the "feeling of oneness" among the various races. Newspapers and journalists must not be over-awed by Minister or leaders that they write and publish everything what they say. Some speeches are inflammatory and not conducive to racial harmony and I hope speeches like that will not find prominence in newspapers (I think you ought to make this appeal to the Press).

Our policy is to endeavour to give all people irrespective of race their fair share of wealth and political power in this country. We want all to have a rightful and dignified place in Malaysia. Our country is rich — only VA of it is developed. There is unlimited wealth or for those who work hard to become rich. There is ample opportunity for any one with ambition to reach the top in politic.

There are abundance of goodwill and wealth of talents in Malaysia among the Chinese, Malays, Indians and others. We must pool together these talents to produce harmony, prosperity and "go-ahead" spirit in our people.

Other people and friendly countries can only help and assist us but only Malaysian themselves can help themselves to make this country strong and prosperous.

Malayanization will complete by (1967 ?). Then the Government machinery will be entirely run by the Malaysian themselves. Malayanization has been a gradual but painless process after 10 years of independence (in 1967), in Malaya, at least, all branches of Civil Service would have been completely Malayanised (by 1967 ?). Malayanization in Sabah dan Sarawak will be pursued more vigorously (we must say this too).

I look into the future with great confidence and I appeal to all polit-

ical parties in Malaysia that while differences in our approach to certain aspects of domestic policy are inevitable and necessary in a democracy such as our country, but I hope and call upon all loyal opposition not to let these differences affect our unity on all national issues. It was on this basis that we were able to create Malaysia against the bitter opposition of anti-nationalist elements who see in a stable and united and prosperous Malaysia a negation of this ambition to bring the Malaysian territory under the influence of alien ideologies and foreign influences.

As long as our nationalist forces — loyal Malaysians — whether of right or left continue to show solidarity of national purpose in a common identity, Malaysia will be secured from internal as well as external threat.