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SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
AT THE OPENING OF  
TUN TAN CHENG LOCK MANSIONS  
(LOW-COST HOUSING) AT JALAN LOKE YEW,  
KUALA LUMPUR ON 18TH APRIL, 1966.

Commissioner for the Federal Capital, Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the main problems confronting our Nation's capital, Kuala Lumpur, and to a lesser extent other large towns, is the eradication of squatter settlements which have become more and more numerous in recent years.

To a large extent this state of affairs is the legacy of the Emergency during which time there was a substantial drift to the rural population to the urban areas.

Also, as opportunities for employment increase in Kuala Lumpur after Independence there is a tendency on the part of people living in rural areas to come to seek employment in Kuala Lumpur; not with the intention of settling permanently here but with the intention of eventually returning to their home town or village; and therefore instead of investing their earnings and savings in finding a decent house to live in, they would rather live under sub-standard conditions in their working area and keep their money to build a new and better house in their village or place of birth.

This is one of the main differences between the housing problems in Kuala Lumpur and other such place like Hong Kong and Singapore where people live all their lives in an urban area and have no other birth-place in the rural areas to retire to at the end of their working lives.

In the first place the squatter and "drift to town" problem has been corrected to a considerable extent by the Alliance Government's Rural Development Programme which has helped to stop the drift

to the towns by regenerating and revitalising the rural economy and so making life in the rural areas as equally attractive as life in the towns and by giving the rural dweller a chance to enjoy as high a standard of living of his own land as he would be able to enjoy living in the urban areas.

With regard to those workers who live temporarily in Kuala Lumpur and who have no wish to invest their money in a house in the town, because their eventual aim is to go back to their place of birth, it is hoped that when our housing programme is fully accomplished there will nevertheless be sufficient low-cost houses at low rent to enable this category of person to live under decent conditions in the towns and at the same time save sufficient money to be able to contribute to the construction of his own house in his own village where he can eventually retire.

This is in keeping with our Alliance declared policy of creating a property owning democracy.

Considerable progress has already been made to alleviate the housing shortage in our main towns and it is estimated that about \$850 million was invested in housing during the last five years by both the public and private sectors.

Low-cost housing is one of the major efforts of my Government and is given a prominent place in the First Malaysia Development Plan with particular emphasis to promote the welfare and better conditions of living of the lower income groups.

Although under the Constitution housing is a State subject the Federal Government provides financial assistance by way of loan funds on generous terms to State Government to undertake these low-cost housing projects and the services of the housing trust are made available to provide technical aid wherever required.

Our National Development Plan provides for a substantially larger scale of investment during the next five-years and allocations for low-cost housing alone total \$150 million in Malaya, \$5 million in Sabah and \$7.5 million in Sarawak.

In addition to this expenditure for housing public employees

over the next five years will be in the region of approximately \$25 million.

Our Development Plan enables an intensified phase of housing development to take place so that the most immediate problems posed by the present housing shortage will be met.

However, Ladies and Gentlemen, I think the use of the words "housing project" rather implies an impersonal meaning.

I myself would rather refer to the Alliance Government's housing programme as a "programme to provide Malaysian homes".

The provision of more and more houses for our people, particularly those of the lower income groups is, to a certain extent, a Government responsibility which my Government in this present First Malaysia Plan are tackling with vigour and with urgency of action.

But the provision of a house in itself is only the first stage in the development of a strong, stable and happy nation.

More important is the provision of a good home and that is why today it is most appropriate that this project, of providing more Malaysian homes in our Federal Capital, is named after one of our most distinguished Malaysians who unfortunately is not here with us in person because he is no longer alive but he is nevertheless with us in our hearts and very deeply remains in our memories.

Tun Tan Cheng Lock was at heart a true Malaysian and his way of life, his deeds, his actions, and particularly the way he ran his home and family, is and always will be an example to us all of what the true Malaysian home should be like.

I feel it appropriate, as I stand here today to open these future Malaysian homes, that I should do so immediately on my return from Malacca which was the home of Tun Tan Cheng Lock.

And to anyone who has doubt about the blending of our various races and cultures which comprise Malaysia I suggest to them that they pay a visit to one hundred and one Jalan Cheng Lock in Malacca and see his home, which is a striking example of the

perfect blend of the various cultures and traditions which are truly Malaysian in spirit.

It was within his historic home where our present Prime Minister and other national leaders planned not only the movement for the Independence of Malaya but also created the design of a multi-racial Malaya which envisaged our future Nation as a happy, progressive place and the blending of our various races, communities and cultures living in cooperation and harmony as a happy and prosperous country.

Harmony and understanding is first thought of in the home and it is my hope that each and every house in this large block of flats will be turned into a happy Malaysian home in the true spirit of Tun Tan Cheng Lock's own example and also that the many children yet to be born in these homes here will grow up as true Malaysians, irrespective of their racial origin and make their contribution to the harmony and unity of future Malaysia.