

SPEECH BY THE HON'BLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
REPLY TO DEBATE ON THE BUDGET SPEECH AT
DEWAN RAKYAT ON 26TH JANUARY 1967

Throughout the debate on the budget, one cannot help noticing it - and frankly we are happy - that even the Opposition has found little to criticise this year's budget. The Member for Bungsar¹ found the budget "sound, realistic and sober".

As the result of this realistic budget, most of the Opposition Members had throughout the debate said little about the budget itself but spent much of the time talking on issues quite strictly unconnected with the budget. A good example of this is the Hon'ble Member for Ipoh². He spoke and made the debate on budget as if we were debating on the language issue. But I expect this from him. He has always been a 'language infantile and opportunist'. He just refuses to understand the issue and has always tried to exploit this sensitive question for political opportunism.

It is heartening to know that the Opposition has found little fault about the Budget. But still they must criticise it, otherwise they can't go on masquerading as champions of the people. The Hon'ble Members had commented and criticised several issues. Some of them did so through misunderstanding of the issues, some through their perpetual muddled- thinking and on this I can do little to put it right. A few of their observations are quite legitimate and we will try to answer them and even correct them.

Language

Before I reply to some of the points raised by Hon'ble Members of this House on the budget, I would like to speak on the question of the National Language, which has been referred to by the Hon'ble Member for Ipoh.

The question of language in a country such as ours, consisting of people of different racial origins and when there are so many different languages in the country, is a controversial and sensitive issue. It is therefore the responsibility of all of us, Members of this House as well as political leaders, to be responsible and objective in our approach on this issue and not to make use of the language issue for political gains.

¹ Encik C.V. Devan Nair.

² Encik **D.R.** Seenivasagam.

Anyone who does this is clearly playing with fire and anyone who plays with fire will get his fingers burned.

We in the Alliance Government are always conscious of our responsibility to the people of this country. We always have the true interests of our people at heart. We know that if trouble breaks out because of language issue, it is the ordinary people in this country - the ordinary men and women - who will suffer. It is our duty to protect the interests of these people and to look after their safety and well-being. This language issue can and will be resolved by the Alliance Government. In fact it has already been resolved in our Constitution. The Constitution, while declaring that Malay is the National language and would be the sole official language from 1st September this year, also guarantees the use and study of the languages of other races. The Alliance Government being a just and fair Government, while taking measures to expand the use of the national language, also provides assistance to Chinese and Tamil Schools in order to enable the study of these languages to be carried out more effectively.

That is why we have advised all the people not to play on the sentiments of this language issue because we know the tragedies which have taken place in some countries because of irresponsible leaders making use of the language issue in inflaming the sentiments of the people and if that happens, no one will benefit. In fact, all will suffer and, in particular, the poor people.

As I said before, the language issue can and will be settled by the Alliance Government. But our people, particularly leaders, must always be objective and responsible. The Hon'ble Member for Ipoh alleged that I told the Press not to over-play the language issue. However, I did not use any threat or endeavoured to curb the freedom of the press. At the meeting with the Press, I made it quite clear that we in the Alliance Government upheld the freedom of the Press. I only appealed to the editors of various newspapers, as responsible citizens of this country, to assist in projecting a balanced and same picture about the language issue, and to be careful and responsible in reporting statements on the language question. The Hon'ble Member himself had admitted that when one section of the community statement shouting out on the language issue, there would be reaction from the other sections. So obviously, if we are responsible leaders and if we have the interests of the country at heart and the safety and welfare of our people, then it is our duty to discuss this language issue intelligently, objectively soberly and with moderation. At the meeting with newspapers editors, I appealed for their co-operation and to the credit of these newspaper editors, they listened to what I have to say attentively and none of them, as alleged by the Hon'ble Member,

stood up to assert their rights because there is no question of interfering with their rights. I was only appealing for their good sense and sense of responsibility. I am very pleased that the editors and publishers of the newspapers fully appreciated what I said, and have given their co-operation to the Government. There is no doubt that there are a few political leaders in this country who want to make use of the language issue to obtain support. But I warn these people that if, because of their irresponsible approach on this controversial issue, they may bring the country into trouble and unrest, they must be held fully responsible. However, the people of this country of all races, have enough intelligence and commonsense to know that under the leadership of the Alliance Government their just and rightful aspirations will always be safeguarded. It has never been any intention on our part to eliminate the use of any language but rather we warn to preserve and sustain the use and study of all the other languages while accepting and promoting Malay as the National Language. This policy of ours is embodied in the Constitution and it will be there for all time. I have no doubt that the Alliance Government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, will resolve the question of language satisfactorily and in the spirit of our Constitution.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if you would permit me, may I direct my attention to the distinguished Member for Batu³, who is also a well-known 'Medicineman', I mean, doctor.

In his traditionally rambling way, the Member for Batu, this year, has not much criticisms against the Government and this I take to mean a progress of his understanding of Government policies and the facts of Malaysian politics.

The Member for Batu criticised the expenditure of nearly \$1 million (\$911,919) for consulting work on the proposed Batu Balek/Kampung Aur/Rompin Road.

To start with, the Member was wrong when he said the road was from Rompin to Kampung Aur. It is in actual fact from Batu Balek to Kampung Aur to Rompin. The length of the proposed road is about 70 miles. The expenditure is not nugatory and the proposed road is not an uneconomical proposition because, when constructed, it will provide a useful forest access and construction road which could later be developed into a main access road from Pahang to Johore (forming an alternative route A2 of the Asian Highway) and South Pahang to the coast.

³ Dr. Tan Chee Khoon.

Floods

The Government will be taking measures, including a request to U.N. to help us with experts, to reduce and control the danger of floods in our country. If we can, we will try to prevent it - though sometimes it is difficult - to prevent natural catastrophes but we will try as best as we can.

The Government does not want devastating floods such as the recent one to ever occur again. There will be plans to straighten the course of the main rivers of Malaysia, like the Pahang, Perak and Kelantan Rivers. We hope by doing this it will reduce the danger of floods considerably. This will no doubt cost a lot of money and I hope the Member for Batu will not make any criticism when I come back to this House to ask for the money needed to prevent flood occurrences. Efforts are also being made to encourage the people to leave the low-lying areas for higher grounds. The Government will do all it can to rehabilitate flood victims so that they can start life all over again with some prospects of improvement.

The Perak and Terengganu State Government are doing a good job rehabilitating the flood victims. In Perak, cheap houses will be constructed for these victims in Lenggong and these houses would be built on higher ground.

In Kelantan rehabilitation work is going on but the Kelantan State Government will need all the assistance from the Central Government if the work is going to be satisfactory carried out. The damage in Kelantan is massive and the resources of the Kelantan Government is very limited. But I can assure the people of Kelantan and the State Government that all the resources and power within the Central Government will be used to help the flood victims.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I now reply to the criticisms by the Hon'ble Member for Batu on the Malaysian Centre for Development Studies and why it should not be merged with the Development Administration Unit as suggested by the Member.

As everyone in this country knows, the Alliance Government is a modern and forward looking Government. The creation of these new divisions is in fact to keep pace with modern times. The days of the old general practitioners are fast disappearing and only old medicineman from Batu ought to know this. We are living in a modern and more specialised world which demands improved techniques and up-to-date machinery of Government and in keeping with the independent status of the country.

The two new Units, the Malaysian Centre for Development Studies, and the Development Administration Unit, are created and designed to perform specific and specialised functions. They are two

entirely different organizations and are concerned with two entirely different functions. The Centre for Development Studies is concerned with organising seminars among Afro-Asian nations on national development and with research or studies on economics, social and political developments of the country, while the D.A.U. is primarily concerned with the improvement in the administrative machinery of the Government. The studies that the D.A.U. will undertake are not related to the substantive issues in economic, social and other development programs, but are related to the question of how the administrative machinery could be improved and be made more efficient from the point of view of financial administration, personnel administration, organisation methods and procedures and co-ordination between federal, state and local administrations. The D.A.U.'s task is therefore to recommend measures for administrative improvement and efficiency based on the studies it undertakes. The Centre, on the other hand, is primarily concerned with making economic and national development studies as such and the question of improving the nation's economy is a matter for the Ministries, the Economic Planning Unit, the Treasury and the State Governments to consider. Merging the Centre for Development Studies with the D.A.U. is therefore like a dispensary operated by a doctor and an engineer. It is best to keep them apart as they are doing two entirely unrelated functions.

The question of an organisation being top heavy is a matter of relativity. It depends on the functions of the organisation. Although the D.A.U. has more Division I officers than Division II and III, it is not top heavy when its duties and responsibilities are taken into account. The officers in the D.A.U. have to have in the first place a great deal of experience before they can make a thorough analysis of the shortcomings or inadequacies in the departments, ministries and in the total administration. It is inconceivable to have clerks or executive officers or even junior administrative officers doing such highly analytical and critical work because they would not have the experience and the calibre to undertake such functions. Just as being a doctor to diagnose malfunctioning of a human body so do we need another kind of doctor to diagnose the malfunctioning of the administrative machinery. We cannot have a hospital assistant to do this job.

As I said earlier, the primary function of the Malaysian Centre for Development Studies is the conduct of seminars on National Development for personnel of Afro-Asian countries with special attention paid on the aspects of development implementation techniques. Our development implementation techniques have earned international recognition and we would like to improve it and

exchange ideas with friendly foreign countries. This is friendship through development.

International Seminars organise for personnel of developing countries where views and ideas on development experiences could be exchanged would help not only Malaysia but also others as well to evolve new approaches to development. This will be an exercise in practical co-operation among nations in their development endeavour.

The Centre does not undertake studies in applied economics as in done by the Faculty of Economics and Administration of the University of Malaya but merely gathers all experiences of countries, Governments and people in the techniques of development implementation.

At the moment the Centre is headed by a Director, who is concurrently the Deputy Secretary to the Ministry of National and Rural Development and who is only receiving a charge allowance. In the course of organising Seminars such as those contemplated by the Centre, a lot of papers and correspondence between itself and participants had to be done. Hence the services of two English language stenographers are required and the services of another National Language stenographer is required for internal correspondence. Two clerks are the barest minimum number needed to man an office of this kind.

Expenses incurred in running the last Seminar as well as for any subsequent Seminars for that matter are reimburseable through grants received from a private foundation. The reimburseable expenditure includes those allocated for transport and travelling.

The Government's own financial commitment is considered small in terms of the potential international understanding and goodwill that will be obtained and as well as in terms of the benefits resulting from the discussions on development experiences of other countries.

As anyone can see now the functions of the Centre and that of D.A.U. are entirely different and therefore should not be merged.

The Hon'ble Member for Batu also found it fit to criticise my assurance that MARA would not repeat the mistakes of RIDA.

I feel it would do him a lot of good if he appreciates that at a time when our country was in an entirely different stage of development and political status, the then RIDA had quite an impact. At that particular time, way back in 1951 and at the height of the Emergency, RIDA was the correct organisation but viewed through the circumstances obtaining in the post-Merdeka years, RIDA had certain defects. As the Hon'ble Member may perhaps admit that time have changed and in 1966, a situation arose which necessitated a new organisation with more streamlined methods based on the outcome of diagnosis of past activities of the old RIDA together with

the prediction of future development. MARA was therefore evolved along more modern lines in keeping with more modern methods and it is my duty to see to it that the mistakes of RIDA should not be repeated by MARA so as to enable MARA to move forward with gusto and with the new spirit manifested by the Congress Economy Bumiputra in June, 1965.

I can assure the Hon'ble Member for Batu that MARA will not repeat the mistakes made by the former RIDA. MARA is presently undergoing a major change in its policy, objectives and functions. The objectives of MARA are being redefined and unlike the past, MARA will not engage in activities unrelated to its work. MARA will instead confine itself solely to activities that will bring about greater participation of the Bumiputras in commerce and industry and to assist develop industrial and commercial enterprise in which the Bumiputras can participate.

MARA's responsibility is therefore to stimulate, facilitate and to assist the Bumiputra to participate more actively in the commercial and industrial enterprises of the country by way of providing supervised credit facilities, and also to give them business and professional training that they require. Where necessary MARA will undertake enterprises in its own name and operate them in trust for the Bumiputras until such time when the people themselves will be ready to take them over.

To ensure the success of the projects undertaken by MARA, proper qualified staff are being engaged. When such staff are not available assistance from world organisations such as the United Nations and Colombo Plan are being sought to assist the local staff to carry our the projects.

I am confident that with trained staff MARA will not fail its obligations to the people.

The Hon'ble Member for Ipoh also alleged that there was deterioration in the efficiency of the civil service and that the officers are demoralized. I think this is an unfair remark because I know better than anyone about civil servants and the civil service and I find that our civil servants are second to none. They are always loyal to the Government of the day and they are doing all they could to help the people and in carrying out Government development programmes. In fact they have done so well that we have been able to carry out our development plans successfully and we have no doubt that they will carry out the First Malaysia Plan greater efficiency and success than the previous two Malayan Plans and to their credit the civil servants had done it without much additional staff. I would like to pay my tribute to the civil servants for a job well done and I am quite sure that they will continue to strive to even do a better job in the future. Their

administrative efficiency is being looked into by the newly-created Development Administration Unit, which is studying how to improve Government machinery and I have no doubt very soon the civil servants in this country will be even more efficient than ever in keeping with a fast advancing country such as ours.

Election in Sarawak

The Hon'ble Member for Ipoh claimed that Sarawak is slowly and steadily moving out of Malaysia. I do not know on what basis he formed his opinion, but if he did so because the Alliance lost in an unimportant district by-election, then I am really sorry for him. The majority of the people of Sarawak support Malaysia and wish to remain in Malaysia, including even SNAP and you heard two days ago a SNAP MP re-item thing in Party's pro-Malaysia in the name. I am satisfied that it is the desire of the majority of the people of Sarawak to remain in Malaysia. Regarding the General Election Sarawak which several Hon'ble Members both from West and East Malaysia had raised, I would like to say that the Government will of course hold the elections when the election machinery is ready in Sarawak. It will take some time because Sarawak is a large State and lacks experienced personnel coupled with great problems of communication the State. But I can assure the House that elections in Sarawak will be held as soon as it can be done. We will certainly have the elections some day and the sooner the better for all concerned.

Alliance Philosophy

The Hon'ble Member for Ipoh also accused the Alliance of preaching communalism in the Kampung Bahru by-election. This is of course untrue for if anybody who has always been harping on this theme and thrives on it politically, it is the Hon'ble Member himself. Although the Alliance candidate in the Kampung Bahru by-election happens to be a Malay, he campaigned just as hard in non-Malay areas as he did in Malay Kampungs. In all his campaigns, he was ably assisted by the MCA and the MIC. I would like to point out the mis-conception of most people that Kampung Bahru is a predominantly Malay constituency. This is quite untrue because more than 50 per cent of the number of voters there are non-Malays, consisting mainly of Chinese and Indians. The Malay voters only formed about 45 per cent of the total electorate.

The Alliance candidate won the election not on Malay votes alone - though most of the people who voted for the Alliance were Malays - but we also got some non-Malay votes. On the other hands

there is evidence that the votes the DAP candidate received were exclusively Chinese as a result of DAP's exploitation of racial issues and condemnation of Malay privileges and rights. In a poor effort to deceive the people, DAP subtly preaches multi-racial co-operation and the so-called Malaysia Malaysian openly but privately in house-to-house campaign we have enough evidence to show that DAP was a mischievous lot and campaigned and exploited racial differences. DAP, like its predecessor, DAP is to some extent multi-racial in structure only but racial in its political approach. I even begin to doubt if it is really multi-racial structurally. I don't know how of any "outsiders" other than the Member for Bungsar, who is slowly being reduced in importance. One only has to glance through the Kampung Bahru by-election Committee of DAP to prove this.

The Alliance, as is well-know to all, including the Opposition, is for racial harmony and co-operation. The Alliance is represented by three parties, namely, the UMNO, MCA and MIC, and we are pledged to work for the promotion of racial unity which we hope eventually will lead to a united Malaysian nation. We will continue to work as we have always worked since the Alliance was formed more than 13 years ago, for peace, progress, prosperity and justice to all Malaysian, irrespective of race, colour and creed. It is the aim of the Alliance to provide a place for everyone under the Malaysian sun so that everyone will live in peace and happiness and has one common loyalty to this country.

The Hon'ble Member also accused that one of the Alliance banners had different slogans in three different languages. I have checked on this and has found out that this particular banner was not an authorised banner of the Alliance and was not put up by the Alliance Headquarters. Official banners issued by the Alliance have the same slogans whether they are in Chinese, Tamil or in Malay. They always proclaim "Vote Alliance for Peace, Prosperity and Justice" This particular banner could be a bogus one have might and been put up by our opponents to embarrass us. I certainly hope DAP has not faked it up. Let me be generous and presume that the banner was not a fake one them the banners must have been put up by an over-zealous Party supporter and certainly not put up by the Alliance Headquarters. The Alliance Headquarters has always put up same slogans in all languages and the Hon'ble Member knows this, having been fighting the Alliance since 1955, that what I am saying is true.

Mosque

The Member for Dato' Keramat⁴ has criticized the building of a mosque on the Penang Hill. I don't know why he picked on this rather sensitive issue and which could easily be misunderstood by people as attack on Moslems and their religion and the State Religion. He said he was against waste. But there was no waste on this. Unless of course, the Member wants a shed to be built among mansions and bungalows on Penang Hill. A place of worship must be built consistent with the 'dignity' of its surroundings. Incidentally, most of the money came from public donations. The mosque did not cost \$240,000 as alleged by the Member. It only cost \$72,000. The public contributed \$42,000 and the Government only contributed \$30,000. If we follow our rules of matching contribution a grant, that is a dollar-to-dollar basis, we would have to contribute \$42,000 but we did not and in fact we have saved the Government a lot of money.

From mosque, the Hon'ble Member moved on to the question of the dissolution of Malaysia. He has given three alternatives to us regarding the future of this country. First, he wants us to reformulate Malaysia we want with new and different terms; whether Sabah and Sarawak want to remain in Malaysia in its present set-up or whether they want fresh discussions after they are separated or if they wish to have the present Malaysian set-up with different terms. I do not know on what basis the Hon'ble Member concludes that the people of Sabah and Sarawak are not happy with Malaysia or we are not happy with the people of these two territories. As far as I know, the Government is satisfied with the desire of the people of Sabah and Sarawak to remain in Malaysia and that the two States are happy and want to remain in Malaysia under the present set-up. Perhaps, from time to time we will review the conditions of the Malaysia Agreement in the light of our experience and changing time and political requirements to consolidate and integrate the nation.

Sometimes the Hon'ble Member spoke as if he wants us to preside over the burial of Malaysia and talked about Sabah and Sarawak leaving the new country. He claimed that everyone wants to give up Sabah and Sarawak but nobody dares to speak it up. This is not true, with Alliance Party; it must be true with Labour Party. As you know, the Labour Party and some other Opposition Parties have always been opposed to Malaysia and this is the only thing I know they are always consistent about.

⁴ Encik Lim Kean Siew.

As I had mentioned earlier, we will be holding the election in Sarawak as soon as it can practically be done. We are not with holding elections because we are afraid as alleged by some Opposition members. In fact, in March, Sabah will be holding its first General Election and naturally after Sabah we have to have another election in Sarawak. But when it is going to be, I cannot say exactly because it will depend on the completion of the election machinery in the State.

The Hon'ble Member also claimed that we are neglecting the peasants and the poor people of this country. This is not quite true because we are doing all we could to help these people to get a higher standard of living by urging them to modernise their methods of cultivation, giving them subsidised urea and providing the people with greater amenities of life. The fact that these people have always been staunch supporters of the Alliance since 1955, proves that they are satisfied with what the Government is doing for them. But being a good Government, we are not satisfied with what we are doing for them simply because we want to do much more for our peasants and poor workers.

Defence Expenditure in Sarawak

The Hon'ble Member Mr. Edmund Langgu⁵ stated that he was sorry to note that there was still a heavier expenditure to be incurred on defence in Sarawak in spite of the suspension of Confrontation. He further stated that the massive influx of West Malaysian soldiers into Sarawak was unwarranted and that a small contingent of Sarawak Field Force would be more than adequate to contain the so-called subversive activities.

I would first like to inform the Hon'ble Member that there is no such thing as "West Malaysian soldiers" as such. The Armed Forces of this country is Malaysian in character. It is called the "Malaysian Armed Forces" and in fact a large number of Sarawakians and Sabahans have joined the Armed Forces, and units of the Armed Forces which have Sarawakians and Sabahans are already serving in Sarawak.

Militant Indonesian Confrontation may have ended but the danger from militant Communism and the TNKU still exist and has in fact increased as evidenced in the White Paper recently published on the Communists activities in Sarawak. The presence of the so-called large number of soldiers is still necessary and the Sarawak contingent or Field Force alone will not be adequate to keep law and order in the Sarawak border and the areas infested with Communist

⁵ Member for Sarawak.

terrorists. The soldiers and personnel of PFF as a matter of fact is very thin on the ground but if the situation does not worsen and if the population and political parties co-operate with the Government, the present strength of the Armed Forces and the PFF stationed in Sarawak would be adequate.

Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kawasan Johor Tenggara⁶ telah mengaku yang ia bingung dengan dasar Kerajaan Perikatan terhadap komunis atau komunism. Kononnya, ia menyatakan dasar kita terhadap komunism telah berubah. Saya suka memberi penjelasan sedikit di sini bahawa seperti kata Y.T.M. Tunku Perdana Menteri⁷ adalah menjadi dasar Kerajaan Perikatan untuk sentiasa berkawan dan bersahabat baik dengan semua negara yang ingin berkawan dengan kita dan menjamin yang mereka tidak akan melibatkan diri dalam soal-soal rumahtangga negara ini dan menghormati kemerdekaan kita. Malaysia akan bersahabat dengan mana-mana negara jua pun dengan tidak mengira apa fahaman politik Kerajaan negara itu. Berlainan fahaman politik tidak boleh menyekat persahabatan antara dua negara namun bagi orang-orang perseorangan juga.

Semenjak konfrontasi tamat, kita telah dapat perubahan-perubahan dasar dan pandangan negara-negara komunis terhadap Malaysia dan ini menunjukkan tanda-tanda yang mereka suka bersahabat dengan kita dan mengakui dan menghormati kemerdekaan kita. Keinginan ini kita balas kerana seperti kata saya tadi adalah menjadi dasar kita untuk bersahabat dengan semua negara. Dalam masalah ini tidaklah ada apa-apa perubahan dasar kita terhadap negara-negara komunis. Sebelum konfrontasi, sebagai sebuah negara yang merdeka, kita berbaik-baik dengan negara-negara komunis walaupun kita tidak ada perhubungan diplomatik. Permusuhan negara-negara komunis terhadap negara kita hanya kita dapati selepas Indonesia konfrontasikan kita sahaja. Dan sekarang konfrontasi sudah tamat.

Seperti kata Y.T.M. Tunku Perdana Menteri bahawa negara-negara komunis pun ada yang baik juga. Dunia komunis sekarang ini telah berpecah menjadi tiga puak. Puak pertama diketuai oleh China yang mengamalkan dasar militan komunism atau mahu menakluki dan menjadi seluruh dunia komunis melalui kekerasan. Puak yang kedua ialah yang diketuai oleh Soviet Union yang mendakwa mereka mengamalkan komunism tetapi tidak dengan cara kekerasan. Mereka boleh berkawan-kawan dan hidup dengan fahaman-fahaman politik lain. Satu puak lagi ialah negara komunis yang "merdeka" yang tidak

⁶ Dato' Syed Jaafar bin Hasan Albar.

⁷ Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj.

tertakluk kepada mana-mana negara komunis di atas tadi. Negara komunis yang “merdeka” ini selalunya bersikap berkecuali seperti negara Yugoslavia.

Dengan negara-negara komunis seperti Yugoslavia, Soviet Union dan negara-negara komunis yang tidak mengamalkan, kekerasan untuk menakluki dunia inilah nampaknya kita boleh bersahabat dan sebab itulah kita telah bertukar-tukar lawatan.

Ahli Yang Berhormat Kawasan Muar Utara⁸ telah membawakan perkara kenaikan elaun Ketua-ketua Kampung kerana pada masa ini mereka diberi kerja yang lebih di bawah rancangan-rancangan Gerakan Maju dan Ketua-Ketua Kampung itu juga telah dijadikan Pengerusi-pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kemajuan Kampung.

Masalah pembayaran sagu hati atau elaun kepada Ketua-ketua Kampung adalah tanggungjawab Kerajaan Negeri. Sama ada hendak dinaikkan ataupun diberi lebih lagi maka terpulanglah kepada pertimbangan Kerajaan-kerajaan Negeri. Tetapi saya suka menarik perhatian Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang jika kita sebenar-benarnya hendak memberi kesedaran, tanggungjawab dan keinsafan kepada rakyat bagi mencapai kemajuan maka seluruh rakyat termasuklah Ketua-ketua Kampung, rakyat biasa, pegawai-pegawai Kerajaan dan Wakil-wakil Rakyat khususnya memberi tenaga usaha dan fikiran yang lebih besar lagi kepada pembangunan dan Gerakan Maju di tempat masing-masing dengan tidak fikirkan sangat tambahan-tambahan elaun. Saya berharap kesedaran ini akan timbul supaya rakyat lebih bekerja kuat, berusaha dan tekun dalam mencari kemajuan bagi diri masing-masing dan Malaysia. Seperti yang saya katakan tadi bahawa soal kenaikan elaun itu adalah semata-mata tanggungjawab Kerajaan Negeri maka saya serahlah soal itu kepada Kerajaan-kerajaan Negeri.

With regard to the question raised by the Hon'ble Member Mr. Stephen Yong⁹ regarding the “on-the spot-grants”, I regret to say that the Hon'ble Member has completely misunderstood this method of allocating funds for development purposes. The on-the-spot-grants are in fact *the end process of detailed investigations by both the State Development officers and the District Officers*. The projects concerned for which funds I approve on my tour of the rural areas have been properly worked out long before I arrived on the spot. The only thing that is done on the spot is the announcement to the public that funds for the projects are approved.

The advantage of this method is that the people who are going to benefit from the implementation of such projects know, in fact, that

⁸ Encik Ahmad bin Arshad.

⁹ Member for Sarawak.

they have been approved and if there is any delay in the implementation then they can, through the proper channels, speed up action on it.

Take the alternative to this. What happened in the old days of colonialism when the lifeless allocation warrants were passed from office to office and none of the rakyat and everyone on the ground knew of the approval of the projects and such allocation of funds could lie idle in files while the projects remained still-born. This method of on the spot announcements of the allocation of funds has brought to life the whole of the minor works programme throughout the length and breadth of the country to the advantage of our rural people.

The Hon'ble Member for Kota Star Selatan¹⁰ mentioned about expensive building and other paraphernalia.

The Government is very much aware of this. In fact, I have already instructed all concerned to see to it that all new Government buildings and other projects be constructed on *Standard Plans*. It has been the policy of the Government for the past three years to construct buildings only on *utility lines*, without expensive esthetic contraptions.

I would like to assure this House that all new Government and engineering project and constructions will have to be scrutinised carefully by the Standards and Cost Committee before actual implementation is carried out.

A more sweeping step than this will be a review of the Building By-Laws so that some of the expensive hut un-utility types of requirements under the Building By-Laws could be dispensed with.

Now I come back to the point raised by several Opposition Members on defence expenditure.

The Hon'ble Member for Bungsar, Mr. Devan Nair, stated that the Ministry of Defence Estimates shew a net reduction of 1,770 in personnel, i.e. a decrease of $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ in personnel, but it shew an increase of 7% in personal emoluments.

I would like to confirm that there is a reduction in personnel from 50,192 to 48,422 but personnel includes civilians, regular servicemen as well as mobilised servicemen. If the Hon'ble Member were to examine the Estimates carefully and intelligently, he will see that the net reduction in personnel is due to:

- (a) firstly, in the reduction of civilians concerned with Control of Manpower and The National Service and of servicemen concerned with the training of national servicemen;

¹⁰ Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed.

- (b) secondly, in the reduction of permanent military staff concerned with the training of Local Defence Corps;
- (c) thirdly, in the reduction of mobilised servicemen.

These are very clearly shown in Bahagian 'C', 'D' and 'E'.

On the other hand, an examination of Bahagian 'B' will show that there is an increase of both civilian and regular servicemen, i.e. civilian personnel increased from 1634 to 1971 and servicemen from 21,882 to 24,633.

Perhaps I should explain that the reduced civilian personnel, except for three Administrative Officers and two Executive officers, involves mainly the Clerical grades and the reduced military personnel similarly mainly involves NCOs and Other Ranks. On the other hand, the actual strength of military personnel - regular are catching up with the approved establishment and the effect of this, as well as the increases in salaries due to their normal promotion in service, is to increase the total emoluments.

Yang Berhormat Ahli Muar Utara (Ahmad bin Arshad) telah berkata di dalam pertahanan kita tidak patut bergantung kepada negara luar tetapi bentuk pertahanan sendiri. Ia juga berkata perjanjian pertahanan dengan Britain patut dikaji semula dan patut perjanjian pertahanan baharu diadakan dengan Singapura, Thailand dan di Vietnam Selatan.

Bagi menjawabnya saya suka hendak menegaskan bahawa tidak ada negeri-negeri di dalam dunia ini yang boleh menjalankan pertahanannya sendiri melainkan barangkali Russia dan Amerika Syarikat. Mereka semuanya masuk di dalam perjanjian pertahanan mahupun secara 'collective' ataupun 'Bilateral'. Jadi kita sebagai negeri yang kecil hendaklah menjalankan pertahanan kita dengan bersekutu dengan negara-negara sahabat, maka oleh sebab itulah maka kita ada perjanjian pertahanan dengan Britain, Australia dan New Zealand bersekutu dengan perjanjian pertahanan itu.

*The Hon'ble Member for Sitiawan*¹¹ suggested that the youth of this country should be called up for military training.

The suggestion is indeed a very good one. However, we have to take into consideration the financial position of the country and the expense involved. As a matter of fact, National Service training was instituted during the period of Confrontation, but we could not go on with this and have to close down or National Service Training Centres and stop calling up our youth for military training in order to cut expenditure on defence and enable money to be made available for development.

¹¹ Encik Kam Woon Wah.

*The Hon'ble Mr. Ong Kee Hui*¹² stated that rather than spend large sums of money on the military to defend ourselves the Territorial Army should be expanded.

In our military plan we have provided for an Army which consists of both regulars and volunteers. It is not clearly shown in our Estimates, but the strength of the volunteers is very much larger than that of the regulars. The volunteers under go regular training and will be called up whenever there is a state of emergency. This was done during the Confrontation and, as the Estimates show, a large number of them are now being demobilised. It is, however, necessary to maintain at any time a certain strength of regular Army. Our military plan is based on this principle.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stephen Yong said that Government is spending too much money on Defence and we could reduce expenditure on defence if Government were to practise real democracy and allow the free interchange of ideas and ideologies.

We are practicing democracy. But some political leaders either intentionally or inadvertently allow the Communists to subvert or infiltrate into their Party which makes the work of Government difficult and require more Security Forces. If these political leaders can show courage and stand up against the Communist, it might be possible to reduce some expenditure on Defence and Security.

What I don't understand is that some Opposition Members suggested that we should depend on ourselves for defence while others criticised the crease in defence expenditure. We are increasing the size of our force and increasing the number of aircraft and ships so that we should take more upon ourselves to defend our country because we believe in last analysis the defence of a country is in the hands of its alone particularly if there is an actual external attack. What we intend to have is a force of a size adequate to assists the civil authorities in internal security and to carry out a 'close defence' of our country.

Conclusion

Hon'ble Members, I think I have replied to all the major questions and observations raised in the House during the debate. Before I yield the floor to my other colleagues, I would like to say the Malaysian people, every one of us here, has worked reasonably hard to make Malaysia a happy land for all people. We are a diligent people and while we go that fighting alien subversion, only the Alliance Government can go about improving the people's lot.

¹² Member for Sarawak.

I give the House the assurance that under us, Malaysian of every race will always have a reasonable live hood, security and happiness; and for our efforts, the people have always been with the Alliance Government and I have no doubt they will continue to do so for many years to come. Thank you.