

SPEECH BY THE HON'BLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "RAZAK MANSION"
AT SUNGEBESI ON 26TH APRIL 1967

**Yang Berhormat Menteri Kerajaan Tempatan dan Perumahan,
Your Excellencies,
Pesuruhjaya Ibu Kota,
Ladies & Gentlemen,**

I am grateful to my colleague, the Minister of Local Government and Housing, in inviting me to declare open these Mansions which have just been completed as part of Government's large scale low-cost housing in the Federal Capital.

I am also grateful to him for the honour given to me by naming these Mansions after my own name. I trust that all those who occupy these mansions will be blessed with good luck and happiness.

I should like to congratulate the Minister of Local Government and Housing and officers of his Ministry and also the Commissioner of the Federal Capital and indeed all those connected with this low-cost housing scheme, for the good work that they have done. As the Minister has explained, it is the policy of the Government to provide housing for our people of all races, particularly those living in the towns and in the urban areas. Housing is an important item in our National Development Programme and we are determined to carry out the housing programme, in particular, low-cost housing, with energy and determination. I am so pleased that this programme has been accelerated in recent years and that the Minister and his officers have endeavoured to learn the best techniques in industrialised housing in advanced countries of the world in order to speed up our building.

The policy of our Government ever since we achieved Independence and since we have been able to end the war against the Communist terrorists has been to generate economic growth in our country to narrow the gap between the have and havenots to give our people of all races a better and higher standard of living and a rightful place in our country. We are celebrating the tenth year of the anniversary of our Independence this year and I think we all can look back with satisfaction and pride at the way in which our young Nation has moved forward despite difficulties, despite stress and strain. During these 10 years, we had to face two wars – wars against Communist insurrection and against Confrontation by the old order

of Indonesia. But despite all these, we were able to achieve progress. We were able to devote whatever energies and resources we could spare to the development of our country, to show to our people that freedom must mean freedom from poverty, from hunger and illiteracy, and ability to enjoy a decent standard of living. We want our people of all races to enjoy the same standard of living as is being enjoyed by the more advanced countries of the world. We want those who have no means of livelihood to have a proper means of livelihood and those who have no home to have a decent home to live in. We have done much in carrying out development in our country but we are determined to do much more in order to realize the hopes and aspirations of everyone of us in this country. These Mansions in from of you is an outstanding example of what we have achieved; but there are many othr mansions, many other buildings, roads, brige, schools, hospitals, health centre and others which provide clear evidence of what we have been able to do and of the progress that we have achieved. We have been able to achieve all these through parliamentary democracy which we believe in. We know that there are people who are only too ready to make criticisms to belittle what we have done; but you all the people of this country know what we have done and the facts I have mentioned speak for themselves.

The way in which we have achieved progress during the last 10 years is being watched with sympathy and admiration by our friends overseas. Our techniques of development implementation have become internationally known and many developing countries in the world asked to follow and to copy our methods and our techniques, But as I said, we will not sit on our laurels or on praises by our friends from overseas. We are determined to proceed ahead, to continue with the tempo of development throughout our country, particularly in the State of Eastern Malaysia until our object of making this beloved country of ours a happy, united and prosperous Nation is achieved.

As the Minister has said, my wife and I have just come back from our visit to Australia and New Zealand. I was extremely happy with the visit and we were showered with great kindness, hospitality and friendship wherever we went. There is a tremendous fund of goodwill by the peoples of these two countries towards us in Malaysia because we and they share the same ideals and aspirations. We believe in parliamentary democaracy and we have been able to progress through this system of democracy.

Both Australia and New Zealand, though older than Malaysia, are comparatively young countries. The people who went to settle there have, through their energy, enterprise and pioneering spirit, made the two countries very happy and properous countries. They are enjoying a standard of living much higher than we do in Malaysia.

There is, therefore, much that we can emulate from the people of Australia and New Zealand and it is my wish that our people can generate the same enterprise and energy and show the same pioneering spirit so that all our people will be able to enjoy the same standard of living and the same measure of prosperity that the people of Australia and New Zealand are enjoying.

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Once again, I would like to say how happy and honoured I am to be here today to declare open these Mansion and, with a sense of pride and pleasure, I now declare these Mansions open.