

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
ON THE DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATES, 1962 AT
DEWAN RAKYAT, ON 27TH JANUARY, 1962

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like, with your permission, to introduce the two Heads of Development Estimates which come within the portfolio of the Prime Minister—that is Head 101, Prime Minister and Head 102, Statistics.

Now, as regards Head 101, Sub-head 1, Government Contribution to National Mosque, a token vote of \$10 is required here. As Honourable Members will recall, the House approved the sum of \$1 million in the Development Estimates for last year as Government contribution to National Mosque. However, this sum was not required by the National Mosque Committee in 1961 as all the expenditure that was incurred last year had been met from the public subscription. This year a token sum only is entered, but it may be necessary to ask for funds in the course of the year if the Government contribution is required by the Committee.

With regard to Sub-head 3, Staff Training Centre, Sir, a site of 9.5 acres has been purchased near the University and the money paid for from the Development Estimates, 1961. As Honourable Members are aware, or had been informed last year, the cost of the main building of the Centre will be met from a generous contribution from the Government of New Zealand. It is expected that the Centre will be completed by the end of this year. However, Government may have to spend some money for certain accessory items such as staff quarters, furniture and fittings, lighting and perimeter-fencing. Therefore, only a token vote is entered in these Estimates and, as I have said, it may be necessary to provide funds in the course of the year.

Next I come to Sub-head 5, National Museum. Honourable Members might have noticed that construction of the building of the new Museum has begun, and it is expected to be completed by the end of the year. A provision of \$1,508,000 is entered in this year's Estimates. The sum is required to complete the project.

The revised estimate for the new Museum has increased somewhat from the original Estimates so as to provide for such items

as approach road, up-to-date fitting and equipment, etc. I have Sir, with me the Architects' drawing of the new Museum, and Honourable Members are welcome to have a look at it if they so desire. I am sure Honourable Members will agree with me that when this Museum is completed, it will be one of the most important institutions in this country which will really be a pride to our nation.

As regards Sub-head 8, Economic Planning Organisation, a sum of \$20,000 is requested. Last year the House approved the provision of \$60,000 of expenditure for furniture, equipment and research facilities for the Economic Planning Unit. However, only a sum of \$40,000 was utilised; hence the balance of \$20,000 is requested here.

With regard to Sub-head 9, Government Contribution to National Monument, as Honourable Members are aware, the Government has proposed to erect a National Monument which will record the country's appreciation of the sacrifice and services of the security forces and others who bore the brunt of the campaign against communist terrorists.

The estimated cost of this National Monument is \$864,000 and it is anticipated that as much as possible of this amount will be contributed from public subscription. However, it is felt that the Government should make some contribution towards this Monument and therefore a provision of \$200,000 is entered as Government contribution.

Under Head 102, Sub-head 3, Expansion of Statistics Department, a sum of \$403,165 has been entered here. This project, as Honourable Members will recall, is not a new project but a continuation project from last year. The sum entered for 1962 is the amount required for the year for the expansion of the Statistics Department. I am sure Honourable Members will be as pleased as I am to note that the revised estimate is substantially lower than the original estimates.

That is all for Heads 101 and 102.