

## MESSAGE TO THE PRESS BY THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT ON 31ST AUGUST, 1960

The Anniversary of Merdeka this year has a multiple meaning. It means, in the first place, that it is a memorable milestone in our history, as it is now three years since we assumed the control of our Destiny and took our place amongst the free nations of the world.

Merdeka this year also means our mastery over the menace of militant Communism which has been in our midst for many years, restricting our liberty, draining our Treasury, sapping our energy and preventing our **progress**.

Merdeka also means the opportunities of the present. Now that we are really free, let us consolidate our newly won freedom with all the energy and unity we can by laying the foundations of sound development and giving our best to build a Nation in which all of us will be proud to **live**.

There are three main essentials to the development of any Nation. The first, there must be a potential to develop; the second, sound Government planning; the third, an effort by its people.

The first essential we have in abundance. Malaya is a land of considerable resources and land given by Nature, which lie in readiness to be tapped and developed by the energies of its people.

The next essential is sound planning by Government; already the Government have made plans to ensure that the utmost priority be given to Development, with particular emphasis on the development of the Rural Areas. We are determined to gear our Government machinery in such a way that everything in our power will be done to ensure that our plans are a success.

But the success of any Nation's planning is in fact in the hands, hearts and minds of its people and it is therefore up to you, each

and everyone of you, to ensure that you yourselves are determined that you will put every effort you possibly can towards the development of our Nation by hard work each in your own tasks.

Merdeka also means the promise of the future. Let us use this day, year by year, to take stock of ourselves, and our Country, and to ensure that we are advancing and developing into a Nation of which our children and grand children may well be proud, so that in the years to come as they themselves celebrate, in our absence, they can say with pride in their hearts that we did not fail them.

**MERDEKA!**