

CHAPTER 18 - HOUSING AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

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Chapter 18

Housing and Other Social Services

18

HOUSING AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

I. INTRODUCTION

18.01 Housing and other social services continue to be a priority of Malaysia's development programmes aimed at improving the quality of life and contributing towards the formation of a caring society. During the Seventh Plan period, various programmes for the development of housing were implemented in the urban and rural areas. The overall performance of the housing programmes was encouraging with achievement surpassing the Plan target. The implementation of other social services programmes, which included services in the local authorities, fire and rescue services, library services, information and broadcasting, sports, culture as well as family and community development, contributed towards improving the general welfare of the people and creating a well-informed and caring society.

18.02 During the Eighth Plan period, the objective of the housing development programmes will be to increase accessibility to adequate, affordable and quality houses for all income groups. Priority will continue to be given to the development of low- and low medium-cost houses. In this regard, both the public and the private sectors will intensify their efforts in the implementation of the housing programmes to meet increasing demand. The provision of other social services will be continued and expanded with a view towards improving the quality of life, inculcating positive values and encouraging self-reliance.

II. PROGRESS, 1996-2000

18.03 During the Seventh Plan period, various housing programmes were undertaken by both the public and private sectors. While the private sector focused more on overall market demand, the public sector continued to provide houses for sale or rent to the low-income group and housing for public sector

employees. Housing programmes continued to be implemented based on the human settlement concept, whereby housing estates were provided with communal and recreational facilities. With the provision of other social services, the quality of life of the population improved.

Housing

18.04 During the Plan period, a total of 800,000 units of houses was planned for construction to meet housing needs. A total of 859,480 units or 107.4 per cent of the Plan target was completed, as shown in *Table 18-1*. The private sector, which was targeted to build 570,000 units, completed 737,856 units or 129.4 per cent of the target. However, the distribution based on the type of houses was not in line with the target set, whereby the private sector mainly built medium- and high-cost houses. This was reflected by the completion of a total of 554,458 units of medium- and high-cost houses or 291.8 per cent of the Plan target.

18.05 In the low-cost housing category, the performance of both the public and private sectors was encouraging with a total of 190,597 units completed or 95.3 per cent of the target. Of this, 129,598 units were constructed by the private sector with the balance by the public sector including State Governments and State Economic Development Corporations (SEDCs). In an effort to increase the quality of low-cost houses, new designs with a floor area of 60 square metres incorporating three bedrooms as well as washing and drying areas, especially in high-rise buildings, were introduced. In the low-medium cost category, a total of 72,582 units or 20.7 per cent of the target set was achieved. The low performance was due to cautious investment decisions by housing developers.

18.06 Several measures were undertaken by the Government to accelerate the implementation of housing programmes, particularly low-cost housing. These included the extension of the Low-Cost Housing Revolving Fund (LCHRF) to the private sector to implement new projects, establishment of *Syarikat Perumahan Negara Malaysia Berhad (SPNB)* in 1997 and the introduction of a new pricing scheme. By the end of the Plan period, the construction of 3,294 units of low-cost houses, 360 units of low medium-cost, 1,299 units of medium-cost and 542 units of high-cost was financed under the LCHRF. SPNB was established with a capital of RM2.0 billion to increase the supply of houses costing RM150,000 and below, through the provision of bridging finance to housing developers. Since its establishment, SPNB approved RM732.8 million in bridging loans for the construction of 50,725 units of houses, ranging from low-cost to medium-

TABLE 18-1

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS, 1996-2000
(units)

Programme	Target				Achievement													
	Housing for the poor	Low cost	Medium cost	High cost	Total	Housing for the poor	% of Target	Low cost	% of Target	Medium cost	% of Target	High cost	% of Target	Total	% of Target			
Public Sector	35,000	60,000	110,000	20,000	5,000	230,000	17,229	49.2	60,999	101.7	18,782	17.1	21,748	108.7	2,866	57.3	121,624	52.9
Public Low-cost Housing	-	29,000	-	-	-	29,000	-	-	45,583	157.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	45,583	157.2
Housing Rehabilitation	23,000	-	-	-	-	23,000	13,626	59.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,626	59.2
Sites & Services	12,000	-	-	-	-	12,000	3,603	30.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,603	30.0
Housing by Commercial Agencies	-	23,000	16,000	10,000	5,000	54,000	-	-	11,693	50.8	16,002	100.0	9,048	90.5	2,866	57.3	39,609	73.4
Housing by Land Schemes	8,000	1,000	300	-	-	9,300	-	-	3,723	46.5	230	23.0	3,235	1,078.3	-	-	7,188	77.3
Institutional Quarters & Staff Accommodation	-	93,000	9,700	-	-	102,700	-	-	-	-	2,550	2.7	9,465	97.6	-	-	12,015	11.7
Private Sector	-	140,000	240,000	110,000	80,000	570,000	-	-	129,598	92.6	53,800	22.4	206,208	187.5	348,250	435.3	737,856	129.4
Private Developers	-	137,000	237,000	102,000	79,000	555,000	-	-	127,514	93.1	49,035	20.7	201,266	197.3	346,338	438.4	724,153	130.5
Cooperative Societies	-	3,000	3,000	8,000	1,000	15,000	-	-	2,084	69.5	4,765	158.8	4,942	61.8	1,912	191.2	13,703	91.4
Total	35,000	200,000	350,000	130,000	85,000	800,000	17,229	49.2	190,597	95.3	72,582	20.7	227,956	175.4	351,116	413.1	859,480	107.4

cost houses. Under the four-tier pricing scheme introduced in June 1998, the price of low-cost houses ranged from RM25,000 to RM42,000 depending on the location and type of houses. This was implemented as an incentive to housing developers to participate more actively in providing low-cost houses for the public.

18.07 A special low-cost housing programme, namely, *Program Perumahan Rakyat Bersepadu (PPRB)* was launched by the Government in December 1998, with the objective of resettling squatters in urban areas, particularly in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur and other major towns. Of the 35,000 units which were planned to be built in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, a total of 34,148 units was under various stages of implementation. In addition, a total of 17,630 units was identified for implementation in other major towns where squatters were prevalent. Basic facilities such as electricity and water supply continued to be provided for existing squatter settlements pending their relocation to the new housing schemes.

18.08 The number of medium- and high-cost houses built by the private sector far exceeded the Plan target. The medium-cost category achieved 187.5 per cent and the high-cost category 435.3 per cent of their respective targets. Consequently, at the end of June 1999, the overall number of unsold residential properties was estimated at 93,600 units. To help reduce the stock overhang, the Government and the Real Estate and Housing Developer's Association Malaysia (REHDA) launched several home ownership campaigns. The first Home Ownership Campaign was launched on 12 December 1998, for a duration of one month and the second Home Ownership Campaign from 29 October to 7 December 1999. Incentives offered during the campaigns included exemption of stamp duties as well as a minimum price discount of 5.0 per cent for properties costing RM100,000 or less, and 10 per cent for properties costing above RM100,000. Financial institutions also offered incentives such as a higher margin of finance up to 95 per cent, waiver of processing fees and increased loan tenure up to 30 years. Legal fees were also lowered for sales and purchase as well as loan agreements. As at 30 June 2000, the number of unsold residential properties was reduced to an estimated 45,500 units, including 9,700 units of condominium and apartments.

18.09 *Housing Development in Rural Areas.* As part of the efforts to provide better housing and living conditions to the rural people, several housing programmes continued to be implemented in the rural areas, namely, the Site and Services, Traditional Village Regrouping as well as Rehabilitation of Dilapidated Houses Programmes. Of the 12,000 units targeted for implementation under the Site and Services Programmes, only 3,603 units were completed due to land issue and high

cost incurred by the state governments. Under the Traditional Village Regrouping Programme, a total of 39 villages was regrouped, benefiting 3,615 families. In addition, under the Rehabilitation of Dilapidated Houses Programme, a total of 13,232 units was constructed, benefiting about 47,000 people.

18.10 *Housing for Public Sector Employees.* During the Seventh Plan period, a total of 12,015 housing units was constructed for public sector employees in essential services such as the armed forces, customs, fire and rescue services, immigration and police. Houses were also provided to other public sector employees such as teachers and medical personnel serving in rural and remote areas where suitable accommodation was not available, and for those serving in Putrajaya.

18.11 *Housing For Estate and Industrial Workers.* During the Plan period, a total of 21,561 houses was built in various estates throughout the country. In addition, 74 per cent of all houses were provided with 24-hour electricity and 43 per cent with piped water supply. A total of 259 kindergartens and 69 community halls was also built to improve the welfare of estate workers and their families. Under the voluntary house ownership scheme, a total of 8,171 units was sold. With regard to industrial workers, the employers in the manufacturing sector were also encouraged to provide accommodation and recreational facilities for their workers.

18.12 *Housing Technology, Research and Development.* Greater emphasis was also given to research and development (R&D) in the housing sector during the Seventh Plan period. R&D activities related to production of cheaper and more efficient building materials, better construction techniques and life-costing estimation of multi-storey housing were undertaken by the universities and the private sector. As a measure to overcome the problem of construction defects as well as to protect house buyers, the Quality Assessment System of Construction was introduced. In addition, standard plans for the low-cost housing were also introduced to reduce cost as well as to provide more comfort to the occupants.

Other Social Services

Services in the Local Authorities

18.13 The local authorities continued to provide various urban services and recreational facilities as well as socioeconomic programmes, aimed at improving

the quality of life of the people. Local authorities were also responsible for the regulation and enforcement of health standards and cleanliness in food premises, hawker centres and public places. During the Seventh Plan period, various programmes were undertaken including the construction and upgrading of wet markets, business premises, recreational centres and community halls to meet the increasing demand from their residents. While the principal aim of constructing hawker centres was to provide better access, well organized and hygienic environment for the urban population, it also provided opportunities for the low-income group to participate in business.

18.14 In line with the Government's effort to provide wider coverage and better quality services to the urban population, two municipal councils, namely, Kota Kinabalu Municipal Council and Shah Alam Municipal Council were conferred city status. In addition, three district councils in Selangor, four in Johor, and one in Kedah and Pahang, respectively, were upgraded to municipal councils, while the Bentong, Pekan and Rompin District Councils in Pahang, and the Kangar Municipal Council in Perlis expanded their area of administrative coverage. Two new local authorities established during the Plan period were Bera District Council and Ampang Jaya Municipal Council.

18.15 During the Plan period, the local authorities handled an estimated 16.2 million tonnes of municipal solid wastes throughout the country. In order to improve waste collection and disposal, the privatization of collection and disposal services was initiated and implemented under an interim arrangement. The appointed concessionaires took over the collection and disposal of solid waste from 26 of the 145 local authorities in the country. In addition, a nationwide recycling campaign was launched in December 2000 to promote greater awareness among the public on the need to recycle and reuse waste so as to reduce the amount of waste generated.

18.16 Through the recreation and beautification programmes, various public amenities continued to be provided by the local authorities such as public parks, sidewalks, sports facilities and recreational centres. A total of 24 new public parks was constructed and 109 existing parks were upgraded to meet the increased demand for better recreational parks and open spaces. In addition, a nationwide tree planting campaign was launched, whereby about three million trees were planted to enhance the greenery and quality of the living environment.

Fire and Rescue Services

18.17 The objectives of the fire and rescue services are to provide effective and professional fire prevention, fire protection, fire control and rescue services aimed at protecting life and property as well as ensuring the overall well-being of the people. In this respect, various measures were undertaken to strengthen and upgrade fire and rescue services during the Seventh Plan period. In meeting the objectives of the fire cover policy and increasing demand for fire safety requirements, a total of 54 new fire stations was constructed at strategic locations, particularly near housing estates, commercial areas and industrial zones. To cope with more challenging fire-fighting situations, particularly involving high-rise buildings, maritime, oil and gas, hazardous material incidents as well as forest fires, sophisticated and specialized vehicles equipped with fire-fighting, rescue and paramedic equipments were acquired.

18.18 Efforts were also undertaken to upgrade as well as enhance the skills and capabilities of fire and rescue personnel through in-service training, particularly in new areas of fire safety, industrial emergency response and disaster management. The fire-fighting services were further enhanced with the establishment of the Air Fire-Fighting and Rescue Unit (Air Unit) in September 1998 and the procurement of two helicopters for surveillance, rescue and emergency medical services. In addition, rapid intervention motorcycle teams were also established in fire stations situated in highly urbanized areas to provide quicker response.

18.19 Public education programmes were expanded during the Plan period as an avenue for promoting public awareness on fire safety. Seminars, conferences, dialogues, joint training programmes and fire drills were conducted by the Fire and Rescue Department with the collaboration of the private sector, non-government organisations (NGOs) and relevant professional bodies. As a result, there was a significant increase in the number of volunteers in community service involving fire safety and in the general public awareness in terms of their role in fire safety. By the end the Plan period, a total of 346 volunteer fire brigades was established with 10,179 volunteer fire fighters.

18.20 With the advancement in information and communications technology (ICT), and the need for rapid response to high-risk areas, a computerized monitoring system was introduced and installed in all strategic government and high-risk buildings throughout the country. This online network between the fire stations and the designated buildings expedited the notification of the fire occurrences. By the end of the Plan period, a total of 2,000 buildings was installed with the

system. In addition, telecommunication and information systems in fire and rescue services were upgraded, including the introduction of an Integrated Command and Control System in the Putrajaya Fire Station in 1999.

Library Services

18.21 Various measures were taken to inculcate and promote reading habits among the general public and to develop a well-informed and knowledgeable society. Library infrastructure was improved and sufficient as well as up-to-date reading and information materials were provided to communities. During the Plan period, the number of libraries increased from 487 in 1995 to 610 in 2000, of which 493 or 80.8 per cent were in the rural areas. The number of mobile units providing library services in rural areas also increased from 100 in 1995 to 123 in 2000. As a result of these facilities and various programmes including the *Kempen Gerakan Membaca*, the number of library users increased from 1.6 million in 1995 to 4.0 million in 2000. In addition, the number of reading and information materials also increased from 1.5 million in 1995 to 13.5 million in 2000.

18.22 To improve access to information nationwide, the national knowledge and information network infrastructure was further expanded to include the development of IT-based libraries. This was enhanced with the introduction of the *Sistem Perpustakaan Digital Nasional (Sistem PERDANA)*, which is a collaborative effort among the National Library of Malaysia, Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) and *Telekom Malaysia Berhad* and supported by libraries at universities and various government departments as well as public libraries. Launched as *Mylib* on 29 June 2000, *Sistem PERDANA* aimed to enable users such as researchers and the general public to access more information through a wide spectrum of databases.

Sports

18.23 Besides achieving excellence in international competitions and promoting the country's image, sports is also an avenue to promote a healthy lifestyle as well as goodwill and rapport among Malaysians. Participation in sports activities also contributed towards the development of social competence, character and teamwork. The implementation of sports development programmes was guided by the National Sports Policy, adopted in 1988, which provided general guidelines

for the development of sports. To further promote and facilitate the development and administration of sports as well as to ensure effective coordination and management of sporting activities, the Policy was complemented with the Sports Development Act 1997.

18.24 Programmes for mass sports were continued to contribute towards the creation of a fit and healthy Malaysian society. To encourage and ensure the effective implementation of such programmes, facilitators were recruited and trained. In addition, programmes such as the National Fitness Programme, walking, and marathon runs, new sports and recreational programmes such as mountain climbing, martial arts and sailing were introduced. Through these efforts, a total of about five million people was involved in the mass sports programme.

18.25 An important prerequisite in the promotion of high performance sports is the availability of adequate and well-equipped facilities at the state and national levels. In this regard, the construction of the Indoor Stadium in Pulau Pinang, the Sports Complex in the Federal Territory of Labuan as well as the upgrading of various sports facilities were jointly undertaken by the Federal Government and the respective state governments. The availability of facilities at the state level assisted in the identification of potential athletes and the implementation of appropriate training programmes at an early stage as well as ensured the formation of a pool of athletes able to compete at the international level. In addition, the completion of the National Sports Complex at Bukit Jalil, equipped with modern facilities, provided a suitable venue for centralized training at the national level.

18.26 In preparation for Malaysia's participation in international competitions, and specifically for the Kuala Lumpur '98–XVI Commonwealth Games, the National Sports Council implemented various programmes aimed at building a pool of young talent with the calibre and potential of becoming champions. These included the Commonwealth Games Athletes Preparation Programme, the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games Athletes Preparation Programme and the Talent and Youth Development Programme, undertaken with the cooperation of sports associations. The implementation of these programmes contributed towards the commendable performance in the 1998 Asian Games during which the highest number of medals were obtained since 1954, as well as emerging fourth out of 70 countries in the XVI Commonwealth Games and second at the 1999 SEA Games. The importance of these long-term training programmes was also demonstrated when the highest number of athletes in the history of Malaysia's participation in the Olympics Games qualified for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. In addition, the *Program Pembangunan Sukan Pilihan* was introduced in 1999 to prepare athletes for the Asian Games in 2006 and the Olympic Games in 2008.

18.27 In recognition of the contributions of sportsmen and sportswomen and to further encourage the participation of youths in sports, the Government introduced various welfare and incentive schemes. The National Athletic Welfare Scheme provided compensation for loss of income during training, medical treatment and education allowances. The Group Insurance Scheme was introduced to cover expenses of athletes involved in accidents or injuries incurred during training. In appreciation of the contributions of athletes, coaches and sports officials in international competitions, the Sports Championship Scheme, the Youth Athletic Championship Scheme, the Coaches Incentive Scheme and the Sports Management Excellence Scheme were introduced.

18.28 In an effort to scout for new talents and nurture them to competitive standards, sports development programmes were implemented in schools with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education, National Sports Council and the respective state sports councils. Excellence and selective training centres were set up in schools to conduct specialized training programmes. In addition, two sports schools were established at Bukit Jalil, Selangor and Kota Tinggi, Johor for students aged 13–18 years. These fully residential schools were located in the vicinity of well-equipped sports facilities for easy accessibility as well as ensured optimum utilization of these facilities.

18.29 The experience and expertise gained in the organization and management of the Kuala Lumpur '98–XVI Commonwealth Games boosted Malaysia's capability and capacity to host other international sporting events. Malaysia hosted various international events including the Le Tour de Langkawi in 1998 and 2000, the Formula One Championships in 1999 and 2000, the Junior World Cup Hockey Competition in 1999, as well as the World Table Tennis Competition, Thomas Cup Finals, Asian Junior Basketball Championship, and the Asian Boat Regatta in 2000. These efforts provided an impetus to the development of the sports industry and contributed towards the growth of the tourism industry.

Information and Broadcasting

18.30 Recognizing the importance of the development of a well-informed society, information-rich programmes covering news, talk shows, documentaries, scientific and educational programmes were aired regularly through the electronic media. In addition, to ensure that society is imbued with strong moral and ethical values that are receptive to modernization, more locally produced dramas, movies

and religious programmes were transmitted. Broadcast media and face-to-face communication were also used as instruments to effectively disseminate information on Government policies and strategies.

18.31 Efforts to improve and upgrade the coverage of radio and television (TV) transmission were undertaken through replacing ageing transmitters with advanced equipment. A total of six new TV transmitters and two new frequency modulation (FM) radio transmitters was installed in Peninsular Malaysia, while 10 new TV transmitters and seven new FM radio transmitters were installed in Sabah and Sarawak. As a result, TV coverage in Peninsular Malaysia improved from 90 per cent in 1995 to 95 per cent in 2000 and from 85 per cent to 87 per cent in Sabah and Sarawak during the same period. Radio coverage in Peninsular Malaysia improved from 93 per cent in 1995 to 95 per cent in 2000 and from 85 per cent to 87 per cent in Sabah and Sarawak during the same period.

18.32 Better quality reception and wider coverage of radio and TV services were provided with the commencement of the Malaysian East Asia Satellite (MEASAT) operations in 1996. With MEASAT, consumers had access to a much wider choice of programmes through various private radio and TV stations, thus providing better quality transmission as well as a wider selection of programmes which included entertainment, culture, sports, education and information.

18.33 Various measures were undertaken in order to facilitate an orderly development of the information and broadcasting sector and to ensure compliance to Malaysian standards and norms. These included, among others, the restructuring of the Ministry of Energy, Telecommunications and Posts into the Ministry of Energy, Communications and Multimedia in November 1998 and the introduction of the Multimedia and Communications Act in 1998. All radio and TV programmes were continuously reviewed to ensure dissemination of values and principles consistent with the culture and beliefs of the country.

18.34 During the Plan period, the National Film Policy was launched in 1996 to provide direction for the development of the national film industry and making Malaysia the destination for offshore filming activities as well as the regional centre for the film industry. Towards this end, efforts were undertaken to make Malaysia a suitable location for the production of foreign films. As a result, a number of foreign movies were filmed in the country that generated revenue and provided spin-offs for the growth of related industries.

Culture

18.35 The implementation of cultural programmes contributes towards enhancing the national identity, promoting national integration and unity as well as maintaining racial harmony. The diversity of cultures in the country was utilized to support the development of the tourism industry. During the Plan period, major programmes were undertaken to conserve and preserve the country's cultural heritage, disseminate cultural information as well as promote the arts and cultural activities.

18.36 To further develop culture and arts at the state level and to encourage the participation of youths and communities in arts and cultural activities, facilities were provided during the Plan period. In this regard, the construction of the cultural centres in Alor Setar, Kedah, Ipoh, Perak, Georgetown, Pulau Pinang and Kuantan, Pahang was completed, while those in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, Kangar, Perlis and Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu were under construction.

18.37 The completion of the internationally recognized National Theatre Complex or *Istana Budaya* in December 1998, with modern facilities, provided a new venue for the performing arts and an additional location for displays, exhibitions and educational workshops. Since its completion, 10 plays and 34 activities comprising music, theatre and dance were held, catering to an audience of about 52,000 people. The completion of the National Art Gallery in 1997 contributed towards the development and appreciation of fine arts in the country. A total of 55 exhibitions in visual arts from local and foreign artists was held at the Gallery. In addition, the National Arts Academy conducted diploma level and short courses in areas such as music, creative writing and theatre for 325 participants, out of which 155 had graduated.

18.38 Cultural activities in the country were also undertaken with the cooperation of the private sector. The completion of the PETRONAS Philharmonic Hall in 1998 and the formation of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) were evidence of the existing close cooperation between the public and private sectors. The Hall, with a seating capacity for 800 persons, further contributed towards the promotion of music and performing arts. In addition, under the MPO's Education and Outreach Programme, workshops, instrumental lessons and school concerts were conducted to educate, create and promote awareness and appreciation of classical music among Malaysian youths, thus providing the opportunity to nurture local talents.

18.39 During the Plan period, efforts were continued to preserve and conserve the historical and cultural heritage of the country as well as enhance and attract the interest of the public. A total of 21 monuments and historical sites was preserved. The completion of the Islamic Art Museum in 1999 further contributed towards the collection and preservation of local as well as foreign Islamic works of art. To provide better understanding of the history of the nation, efforts were undertaken to preserve and maintain historical sites in the country.

Community Development

18.40 During the Seventh Plan period, community development programmes were implemented in the urban and rural areas to foster harmonious living and nurture the spirit of caring among the various communities as well as to inculcate positive values towards development and self-reliance. A total of 471 *Rukun Tetangga* committees was established in urban locations, bringing the total to 2,000 committees with a membership of about 6.6 million people. Activities that promoted interaction, cooperation and the sharing of responsibilities such as *Tunas Jiran, Jiran Wanita, Jiran Muda, Jiran Usia Mas, gotong-royong*, work camps and sporting activities were undertaken. To facilitate the organization and implementation of these activities, the construction of eight *Rukun Tetangga* Centres was undertaken.

18.41 Efforts to instill patriotism and love for the country as well as inculcate positive values, mutual respect and tolerance at an early age were undertaken through the establishment of national unity pre-school classes. A total of 180 pre-school classes was set up, bringing the total to 1,165 classes, which benefited about 33,000 children from the urban areas. Besides preparing children for formal schooling, various activities such as *Tabikarama, Sukaneka* as well as participation in the celebrations of festive occasions were organized. To further encourage children to study together and intermingle, the Government introduced the vision school concept. Under this concept, the National, Chinese and Tamil medium schools were grouped together to share facilities and resources, thus allowing the inculcation of racial harmony and understanding among the younger generation.

18.42 Programmes were organized to further enhance integration and understanding of the various communities, cultures and traditions. These included exchange visits of representatives from the states in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak to attend and participate in functions such as the birthday of the

Yang Dipertuan Agong, opening of Parliament, *Pesta Kaamatan* in Sabah, and *Hari Gawai* in Sarawak. For government officers from Peninsular Malaysia serving in Sabah and Sarawak and vice versa, orientation courses were continuously organized to enhance the understanding and practice of respective cultures and traditions.

18.43 In the rural areas, community development programmes were undertaken with the objective of uplifting the socioeconomic status of the rural population, including the *Orang Asli* community. An integral component of the programme was focused on attitudinal change and to create a progressive and self-reliant rural society. The rural community was also encouraged to participate actively in socioeconomic development projects in order to improve their quality of life. In addition, programmes were also directed towards fostering cooperation and solidarity among the rural population.

18.44 In line with the new rural development philosophy, which gave emphasis to human development and family well-being, efforts were undertaken to implement more courses, counselling and skills training for the rural population. This was to improve their capabilities in upgrading their standards of living, particularly through the implementation of the *Gerakan Desa Wawasan* which covered 1,831 villages. The rural community was also exposed to basic computer knowledge through computer literacy programmes. The new knowledge and skills acquired, facilitated the rural community in planning for their villages, thereby improving their capabilities to engage in income-generating activities as well as working in the manufacturing and services sectors. In addition, a total of 648 pre-school classes was established, benefiting about 19,950 rural children. With regard to the *Orang Asli* community, the Women Motivator Programme or *Penggerak Wanita* was introduced to inculcate awareness on the importance of education for the *Orang Asli* children. During the period, a total of 17 motivator groups was established to cater to about 350 children.

Family Development

18.45 The rapid economic development during the early Plan period and the recent economic downturn posed challenges for individuals and families. Inability to cope with these challenges, including changes in lifestyles and the family structure gave rise to increased social problems. These negative trends, if not addressed, will undermine social stability and negate the economic development achieved thus far.

18.46 To address these problems and ensure a more coordinated approach in tackling social problems, the Cabinet Committee on Alleviating Social Problems formulated a social action plan or *Pelan Tindakan Sosial* (PINTAS), to provide a framework for integrating the various components of social development in the country. PINTAS focused on the promotional, prevention, intervention and rehabilitation aspects of social issues. While the promotional component involved activities contributing towards the formation of a positive and healthy society, the prevention component focused on programmes needed to assist high-risk groups in maintaining healthier lifestyles and preventing involvement in undesirable behaviour. The intervention and rehabilitative components concentrated on activities undertaken to handle and cope with social problems as well as enabled those affected to regain their ability to be assimilated into society. A PINTAS pilot project, involving the Selangor State Government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the community, was implemented in Ulu Langat, Selangor in 1999.

18.47 In view of the complexity of social problems and the need for trained and qualified personnel to address these problems, the Counsellors Act was enacted in 1998. This Act provided for the establishment of the Board of Counsellors to ensure professionalism and high standards among counsellors. With the implementation of the Act, 31 counsellors were registered with the Board.

18.48 Recognizing that the *family* unit forms the basis for social stability and building a caring society, efforts were undertaken to further strengthen the family unit through various mechanisms, namely, education and training, the mass media and the organization of campaigns. The family development programme, which focussed on education, training and parenting, was further implemented to help families cope with the challenges and demands arising from rapid development. This programme consisted of five training modules covering preparation for marriage and marriage enrichment, parenting skills for parents with young children and teenagers, fatherhood and adolescent development. In addition, counselling modules for families with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and training modules on the interrelationships between population, development and the environment were also developed. A total of 848 training sessions involving 30,165 trainers was conducted. These trainers comprised extension workers from the public and private sectors, representatives of NGOs and members of the public. On completion of the training sessions, these trainers conducted similar courses for their respective organizations and target groups. In addition, workshops and seminars on various subjects, such as development and family health, parenting skills for disabled children and adolescent health, were conducted for the benefit of the public. To

further educate and create awareness among families on their roles and responsibilities, books and pamphlets that provided guidance and knowledge to parents, adolescents and children were published for distribution.

18.49 A special programme, Campaign for Happy Families, was launched in November 1999 with the theme “Together with the Family into the New Millenium: With Unity, Solidarity and Harmony”. The Campaign was aimed at reinforcing efforts to increase awareness in the society on the importance of the family unit in facing challenges of the new millenium. By the end of the period, this Campaign was launched in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Kedah and Kelantan.

18.50 Efforts to ensure the survival, protection, rehabilitation and development of *children* were continued to ensure improvements in their quality of life. To provide better protection for the well-being of children, the Juvenile Courts Act 1947, the Women and Girls Protection Act 1973 and the Child Protection Act 1991, were reviewed and streamlined into the Child Act 2000, which covers all children under the age of 18 years. This Act, while ensuring the best interest of the child, recognizes the role and responsibility of the family as the source of care and support during the rehabilitation and development of the child.

18.51 In view of the increasing number of reported cases of child abuse and runaways as well as to assist parents in caring for and coping with children, child protection teams and child activity centres were established in high-risk areas. A total of 132 state and district-level child protection teams as well as 87 child activity centres was set up to provide locally-based services to parents and children. These services included counselling, welfare and the provision of shelter. In addition, to ensure that quality care is provided for children left in the care of child minders, a total of 120 training sessions involving about 3,850 child minders, was conducted throughout the country.

18.52 Care for *older persons* was expanded during the Plan period. In conjunction with the International Year of Older Persons in 1999, the Action Plan for the National Policy for Elderly was implemented to ensure the integration and participation of older persons in society. Through this Action Plan, collaborative activities were undertaken by the public and private sectors in areas such as health education, training as well as social and recreational activities.

18.53 With improvements in life expectancy and the increasing trend towards nuclear families, steps were undertaken to ensure that caring for older persons remained with the family. The Government approved the establishment of nine

day-care centres to provide care for older persons during the day in the absence of family members. In addition, a toll-free line was provided to enable older persons to have access to counselling and information services.

18.54 Programmes for the care of the *disabled* continued to be implemented and further strengthened during the Plan period. In an effort to undertake a more comprehensive approach to the planning of programmes for the disabled, campaigns were organized to educate and increase awareness on the need to register the disabled with the Government. As a result, a total of 95,489 disabled persons was registered with the Department of Social Welfare. To ensure the provision of education for children with special needs, in particular children with visual and hearing impairment or with learning disabilities, the Education Act 1996 required the Ministry of Education to provide schools for these children. Towards this end, a total of five schools benefiting about 2,700 students was constructed during the Plan period. In addition, to enable children with special needs to be taught in a normal school environment, a total of 1,766 classes was provided, benefiting about 12,230 children.

18.55 To enable the disabled to be independent economically, the Government continued to provide technical training programmes. With the completion of the Industrial Training Institute for the Disabled at Bangi, Selangor in 1998, training on residential and non-residential basis was provided to 65 trainees in areas such as tailoring and fashion design, electronics and computer maintenance.

18.56 Efforts to further integrate the disabled into society were continued during the Plan period. The public and private sectors were encouraged to provide employment for the disabled. As a result, a total of 3,489 disabled persons was employed by the private sector while 536 persons were employed by the public sector. With the amendment to the Building By-laws 1984, facilities and safety systems for the disabled were provided at public premises to make them more disabled-friendly. Under the integrated housing programme, housing developers are required to allocate 10 per cent of flats built to be fitted with features and facilities for the disabled. In addition, public transportation such as the light-rail transit and buses incorporated features that allowed the disabled to use these facilities.

18.57 During the Plan period, the community-based rehabilitation programme, which involved the sharing of responsibilities between the family and the community in the care and rehabilitation of the disabled, was introduced. Through this programme, 229 community-based rehabilitation centres catering to about 5,030 disabled and eight group homes for the disabled were established in housing areas with the intention of integrating them into the community.

18.58 NGOs continued to complement the efforts of the Government in the planning, organization and delivery of various social services. To support the work undertaken by NGOs in caring for the disadvantaged and to further improve the living conditions in institutions run by NGOs, the Government provided funds for the upgrading and maintenance of these facilities. In addition, recognizing the complexities of undertaking social work and the need to upgrade knowledge and skills, training was provided to about 850 volunteers during the Plan period.

III. PROSPECTS, 2001-2005

18.59 During the Eighth Plan period, efforts will continue to be undertaken to expedite housing development in order to meet the increasing demand of the population, particularly of the low- and low medium-cost houses. Emphasis will also be given to improving the quality of houses built as well as provide suitable locations and a conducive living environment. With regard to other social services, the focus of development will be to continuously improve the quality of services to enhance the well-being of the population.

18.60 The policy thrusts in the Eighth Plan for housing and other social services will be as follows:

- ❑ *providing adequate, affordable and quality houses for all income groups with emphasis on the development of low- and low medium-cost houses;*
- ❑ *improving the delivery and quality as well as expanding the coverage of urban services;*
- ❑ *fostering harmonious living among the various communities as well as building strong and resilient families towards creating a caring society; and*
- ❑ *enhancing the aesthetic aspects of life through greater participation in sports and recreation as well as the arts and cultural activities.*

Housing

18.61 During the Plan period, housing needs are estimated to reach a total of 782,300 units due to the growing number of population, formation of new households and the replacement of existing houses, as shown in *Table 18-2*. Of

the total, 93.6 per cent will be for new requirements and the balance will be for replacement. The majority of the housing needed will be in Selangor with 13.6 per cent, followed by Sabah with 12.8 per cent, Johor 11.5 per cent and Perak 9.8 per cent. However, only 615,000 units of houses are expected to be built during the Plan period, taking into account the stock overhang in the country and the capacity to supply houses, as shown in *Table 18-3*.

18.62 The Government will continue to provide the necessary support policies and programmes to ensure adequate, affordable and quality housing. This will include the expansion of infrastructure facilities, introduction of appropriate incentives and instituting regulatory measures to ensure efficient housing development. To address the issue of squatters, the findings of the National

<i>State</i>	<i>Total Needs</i>	<i>New Requirement</i>	<i>Replacement</i>
Johor	90,174	85,656	4,518
Kedah	55,514	51,247	4,267
Kelantan	54,272	49,051	5,221
Melaka	20,591	19,035	1,556
Negeri Sembilan	30,753	27,088	3,665
Pahang	44,642	41,730	2,912
Perak	76,569	68,085	8,484
Perlis	7,672	7,321	351
Pulau Pinang	41,421	40,266	1,155
Sabah	100,034	93,709	6,325
Sarawak	69,223	65,157	4,066
Selangor ¹	106,055	102,492	3,563
Terengganu	36,940	33,677	3,263
Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur	46,093	45,390	703
Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan	2,347	2,196	151
Total	782,300	732,100	50,200
%	<i>100.0</i>	<i>93.6</i>	<i>6.4</i>

Note: ¹ Includes Wilayah Persekutuan Putrajaya

Study on the Control and Resettlement of Squatters will be used to formulate appropriate policies and guidelines. During the Plan period, the public sector is expected to construct about 312,000 units of houses or 50.7 per cent of the total target compared with 230,000 units or 29.8 per cent in the previous Plan, as shown in *Table 18-3*. Of the total units to be constructed by the public sector, 66.7 per cent will be low-cost houses and houses for the poor. The construction of low-cost houses under PPRB will be expedited to enable all squatters to be relocated by the end of the Plan period.

TABLE 18-3
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING TARGETS, 2001-2005
(units)

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Housing for the Poor</i>	<i>Low-cost</i>	<i>Low Medium-cost</i>	<i>Medium-cost</i>	<i>High-cost</i>
Public Sector	312,000	16,000	192,000	37,300	46,700	20,000
<i>%</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>61.5</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>15.0</i>	<i>6.4</i>
Public Low-cost Housing	175,000	-	175,000	-	-	-
Housing Rehabilitation	15,000	15,000	-	-	-	-
Site & Services	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	-
Housing by Commercial Agencies	56,000	-	15,000	10,000	16,000	15,000
Housing by Land Schemes	3,000	-	2,000	1,000	-	-
Institutional Quarters & Staff Accommodation	62,000	-	-	26,300	30,700	5,000
Private Sector	303,000	-	40,000	94,000	64,000	105,000
<i>%</i>	<i>49.3</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>31.0</i>	<i>21.1</i>	<i>34.7</i>
Private Developers	289,000	-	39,000	90,000	60,000	100,000
Cooperative Societies	14,000	-	1,000	4,000	4,000	5,000
Total	615,000	16,000	232,000	131,300	110,700	125,000
<i>%</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>37.7</i>	<i>21.3</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>20.3</i>

18.63 The development of low-cost housing will be expedited to ensure that those who are eligible will be provided houses, either for rent or sale. In this regard, there will be a change in the implementation strategy, whereby the Federal Government will be involved directly in the selection of suitable locations to expedite construction and to reduce the problem of mismatch between supply and demand for houses. The state governments will handle the sales as well as the arrangements for end-financing with the financial institutions and will continue to be responsible for the selection of buyers or renters. A revolving fund will be established to finance the project.

18.64 In tandem with the revised price for the low-cost houses implemented by the private sector, the price under the Public Low-Cost Housing (PLCH) programme will be reviewed to take into consideration increasing development costs, especially land, infrastructure, construction materials and labour. However, the price will be lower compared with prices for low-cost houses provided by the private sector since the cost of land and infrastructure will continue to be subsidized by the Government. In order to encourage housing developers to construct more low medium-cost houses and to reduce demand pressure on the low-cost category, appropriate policy guidelines will be introduced. These will include guidelines on prices, specifications and design as well as instituting better planning and control mechanisms. In addition, a proper system of maintenance of high-rise buildings, particularly, the low- and low medium-cost categories will be instituted to ensure that buildings and common facilities as well as other public amenities are well maintained, clean and safe.

18.65 Measures will be undertaken to strengthen the selection system and procedures to ensure proper distribution of low-cost units to the target groups. The centralized database control system at the Ministry of Housing and Local Government will be enhanced to ensure proper monitoring of such activities. The system will have access to all information in the registries maintained by state governments with regard to the applications for houses provided under the public as well as the private low-cost housing programmes. Steps will also be taken to improve accessibility to end-financing from commercial and financial institutions, particularly for those in the low-income group and the informal sector.

18.66 *Housing Development in Rural Areas.* The provision of housing in the rural areas including basic infrastructure facilities aimed at improving the quality of life of rural people will be continued. In this respect, various housing programmes in rural areas for the low-income group and hardcore poor will be reviewed to ensure the effectiveness of delivery and implementation including the mode and quantum of assistance. In line with these efforts, the allocation for the construction and rehabilitation of dilapidated houses will be increased. In addition, within the Regional Development Authority (RDA) areas, low-cost houses will continue to be provided to the rural population by the respective RDAs.

18.67 *Housing for Public Sector Employees.* The Government will continue to provide housing for public sector employees, particularly those in the essential services and those who are working in major towns, border areas as well as in remote areas. Provision of housing to the uniformed personnel will be given priority. During the Plan period, 62,000 units of various housing categories will be provided by the Government throughout the country.

18.68 *Housing for Estate and Industrial Workers.* Efforts will be undertaken to encourage employers to provide housing for estate and industrial workers. The Government will also ensure that they conform to the minimum standards set under the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act 1990.

18.69 *Housing Technology, Research and Development.* The Government will establish the Malaysian Human Settlement and Urbanization Research Institute (MAHSURI) to conduct R&D on issues related to human settlement and urbanization. This will include housing design and technology, especially technical research on alternative building materials as well as industrialized building systems. In addition, studies will also be carried out to formulate a comprehensive policy on housing to ensure sustainable housing development.

Other Social Services

Services in the Local Authorities

18.70 The major thrust of local authority development programmes will continue to focus on improving the delivery and provision of urban services. Socioeconomic programmes and projects, which include the construction and management of markets and commercial premises such as arcades, bazaars and stalls for petty traders as well as maintenance of cleanliness and beautification programmes will be continued. Emphasis will also be placed on upgrading basic infrastructure and amenities such as roads, proper drainage system, markets, community halls as well as undertaking beautification and cleanliness programmes for villages, formerly known as new and traditional villages in the urban areas. During the Plan period, a detailed study will be carried out on these villages in order to provide better services.

18.71 Measures will also be taken to strengthen the capacity and management capability of the local authorities through increasing the number of personnel, greater use of information technology and reviewing related legislation. Under

the cleanliness and beautification programme, efforts will continue to be taken towards quality landscape development to create a progressive, clean and attractive garden nation by 2005. Local authorities will be encouraged to implement projects through smart partnerships with the private sector and NGOs. In addition, greater public participation will be promoted.

18.72 Efforts will also be stepped-up to reduce urban problems such as traffic congestion, flash floods, pollution and poor sanitation. In this regard, various programmes such as the upgrading and expansion of radial roads, construction of access roads to housing estates, and improvement and maintenance of rivers as well as drainage system will be undertaken. Under the integrated solid waste disposal system, transfer stations, sanitary landfills and incinerators will be built, while public campaigns will be intensified to encourage the public to participate in recycling activities. The construction of the transfer station at Taman Beringin, Kuala Lumpur with a capacity of 1,700 tonnes of solid waste per day will be completed during the Plan period. In addition, incinerators will also be built in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur and Labuan, Pulau Pinang and Cameron Highlands, while a sanitary landfill will be built in Selangor. In order to ensure proper management and disposal of solid waste throughout the country, a strategic study on solid waste management at the national level will be carried out during the Plan period.

Fire and Rescue Services

18.73 Efforts to further improve and upgrade the capability and professionalism in fire prevention, protection, and control as well as rescue work will be continued. During the Plan period, RM800 million will be provided for the development of new fire stations and facilities in strategic locations, upgrading of existing amenities, procurement of more specialized equipment, training of multi-skilled personnel and intensification of research and development. The construction of a new Fire and Rescue Academy at Wakaf Tapai, Terengganu will be completed during the Plan period. The academy will be equipped with the latest technology and sophisticated fire and rescue training simulation system. Additional operating bases for the Air Unit will be built in strategic locations to provide comprehensive air service coverage in fire-fighting and rescue works throughout the country. The use of ICT in fire and rescue service will be expanded with the installation of the Integrated Command and Control System in all major towns. R&D activities will be intensified with the development of a R&D centre for fire safety and fire engineering.

18.74 Efforts to instill and inculcate fire safety awareness and education among the general public and owners of residential, commercial and industrial premises will be enhanced through various programmes under fire prevention campaign. This is to ensure that more Malaysians are educated and aware of fire safety requirements and preventive measures. Community and volunteer fire-fighting brigades will continue to be established, especially in suburban and rural areas as well as squatter settlements.

Library Services

18.75 Library infrastructure and services will continue to be developed with the objective to inculcate and promote reading habits among the general public. In this regard, the library service network will be expanded to all districts, *mukim* and villages so that more people have access to reading materials. Relevant agencies will cooperate to facilitate in the setting up of these libraries at the community centres. Efforts to promote reading habits through the *Kempen Gerakan Membaca* will continue to be implemented. During the Plan period, more libraries including new state, district and rural libraries will be built, while additional multimedia mobile libraries will be acquired. To increase IT literacy and information seeking skills, especially among rural communities, *Pusat Siber Ilmu* will be established in public libraries. In order to upgrade the quality of library services, training programmes for the library staff and officers will be intensified, particularly with respect to IT application and maintenance. Greater efforts will be undertaken to encourage wider utilization of *Sistem PERDANA* to improve access to information sources.

18.76 In line with the objective of promoting the National Library as the national reference and resource centre, efforts will be stepped-up to increase its collection and acquisition of books, journals and other materials in various subjects, particularly in science, technology and business. Measures will also be taken to strengthen the enforcement of the Deposit of Library Material Act 1986 to ensure that all national publications will be systematically documented and available for reference and research. In order to enhance access to locally published information, efforts will be undertaken during the Plan period to digitize selected local publications. In this regard, steps will be undertaken to encourage all libraries to undertake this digitization programme to enrich their information databases.

Sports

18.77 Recognizing the importance and contribution of sports towards enhancing national unity, inculcating the spirit of patriotism and solidarity as well as building a disciplined and competitive society, efforts to promote mass and high

performance sports will continue to be undertaken. Concerted efforts to further implement the Sports Development Act 1997 will be continued to ensure the effective coordination and management of sports activities by both the public and private sectors. In this regard, the organization and management of sports associations will be reviewed and upgraded to ensure a more professional approach towards sports development.

18.78 Various sports programmes and recreational activities will continue to be organized at the district, state and national levels to promote mass sports with a view towards creating a healthy, active and productive society. In addition to implementing existing programmes, traditional sports will be reinforced, while a new programme known as extreme sports, which will include skate boarding, motorized paragliding and motor sports, will be introduced to attract greater participation, especially among youths. To promote the importance and benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, more awareness campaigns as well as fitness education programmes will be organized. Public and private sector organizations will be encouraged to introduce callisthenics at the workplace to improve health and increase the productivity of their workers. The Government will also ensure the availability of adequate facilities for the implementation of the mass sports programme during the Plan period.

18.79 In order to establish the foundation for participating in high performance sports, emphasis will be given towards adopting a more systematic approach for the identification and preparation of athletes at the primary and secondary school levels. This approach will involve the inclusion of athletics and gymnastics in the school curriculum, increasing the number and expanding the scope of mini sports events as well as increasing the number of physical education teachers, especially at the primary level. Students showing potential for competing in high performance sports will be given preference to be placed in fully residential schools with training facilities. In addition, sports facilities will be provided and upgraded in all schools, especially in primary schools. Institutions of higher learning will implement specialized training programmes to enable promising athletes to continue training while pursuing their education at the tertiary level. Inter-university competitions will be increased and their scope expanded to be more competitive and enjoyable. Towards this end, the role and functions of the Malaysian Universities Sports Council, as the prime mover of sports in universities and organizer of inter-university competitions, will be reviewed. At the same time, to prepare athletes for participation in forthcoming international meets, the implementation of comprehensive training programmes at the central and regional levels will be further intensified.

18.80 Efforts will also be made to overcome the lack of qualified coaches through the implementation of more training programmes at the certificate, diploma and degree levels. In view of the available pool of knowledgeable and experienced former athletes who could be used for training younger athletes, efforts will be made to encourage them to undergo the necessary training to qualify as coaches.

18.81 With the hosting of SEA Games XXI in 2001, a total of 35 venues throughout the country will be upgraded and sports equipment based on international specifications will be purchased. Intensive training programmes will be implemented to ensure Malaysia's success in the Games. In addition, the hosting of the Far East and South Pacific Paralympic Games in 2006 will further contribute towards the development of sports among the disabled. For this purpose, specific facilities for the disabled will be built and specialized training programmes organized to ensure the successful participation of Malaysia. In view of the large investment in the construction of sports facilities of international standards, concerted efforts will be undertaken to maximize its utilization and ensure its proper maintenance.

18.82 With the establishment of world-class sports facilities, efforts to make Malaysia an international sports destination as well as a venue for training coaches and athletes will be further continued through collaboration with international sports organizations and associations. Efforts will also be made to encourage athletes from temperate countries to utilize facilities available in the country for the purpose of training in tropical conditions. These initiatives will facilitate the growth of the sports industry in the country, while simultaneously contributing towards the development of the tourism industry.

Information and Broadcasting

18.83 During the Plan period, the Government will continue to upgrade and enhance radio and TV coverage in line with the development of information technology (IT) to provide quality transmission and greater access to the population. In addition, with the merging of computer and communication technologies, Malaysians will have access to a wide range of multi-media opportunities with a number of value-added services such as video-on-demand and interactive entertainment. Programmes covering science and technology, IT, business and finance, sports, and culture based on the concepts of infotainment and edutainment as well as enhancement of moral and ethical values will continue to be emphasized. In order to meet the challenges in the broadcasting industry and to further improve effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of services, the corporatization of Radio Television Malaysia will be undertaken.

18.84 Efforts to further improve the quality of transmission, especially in rural and remote areas in Sabah and Sarawak, will be continued. Broadcasting infrastructure will continue to be improved with the acquisition of new equipment and the construction of additional transmitter stations. To provide the public with higher quality radio and TV coverage, plans are underway to convert transmission into the digital mode. The utilization of digital TV terrestrial transmission together with the existing digital satellite transmission will further contribute towards the development of an information-rich society.

18.85 The dissemination of accurate information on government policies and strategies as well as providing timely explanations about developments and issues confronting the country will contribute towards the creation of a well-informed society. Towards this end, information officers will be trained and equipped with more effective communication skills and the latest technologies.

18.86 Taking cognizance of the rapid development and the vast potential in the broadcasting and film industry, the National Film Policy 1996 will be reviewed. The developments in information and communications technology, the emergence of private TV stations, satellites and cable systems provide opportunities to develop the film industry as a large-scale industry that can contribute towards economic growth. Towards this end, the roles and functions of the National Film Development Corporation and the National Film Department will also be reviewed to further facilitate the development and promotion of the film industry. In providing the requisite support for the development of the industry, training of relevant manpower at the Tun Abdul Razak Institute for Broadcasting will be further upgraded and strengthened.

18.87 Private sector involvement in the film industry will be further enhanced with the establishment of a world-class entertainment centre or *e-village* at Dengkil, Selangor. This centre, equipped with sound and virtual studios, provides a venue for the shooting of films by both local and foreign film producers. The latest and sophisticated facilities available at the *e-village* will further contribute to the development of the film industry in the country. Discussions will be held with foreign film producers from Europe, Hong Kong and India to utilize these facilities for their respective film productions. Small film producers and production houses will be encouraged to merge and consolidate their position to become more competitive and viable. The implementation of the *e-village* project will result in spillovers in terms of facilitating the hiring of skilled local expertise, developing new technologies and advertisement of the country's natural resources to potential tourists.

18.88 Recognizing the importance of cooperation among ASEAN countries, the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Television (IMTGT-TV) Station at Langkawi will be established. The IMTGT-TV will transmit programmes of common interests to further promote regional solidarity as well as local culture and values. At the same time, the International Broadcasting Centre will continue to be the major regional broadcaster, providing quality coverage and transmission of regional events and conferences.

Culture

18.89 Culture as a medium to enhance national unity and integration as well as an instrument to improve quality of life will be given greater emphasis during the Plan period. Involvement in arts and cultural activities will also contribute towards the wholesome development of the individual and enhance the aesthetic aspects of life. Focus will be given to arts and cultural development, conservation and preservation of cultural heritage and the dissemination of cultural information. In addition to providing the synergy with the tourism industry, these programmes will enhance national identity and national pride, harmonize positive and moral values as well as counter the spread of negative aspects of foreign culture.

18.90 While efforts to strengthen cultural understanding and consciousness among Malaysians will continue, greater emphasis will be given to encouraging the participation of youths and communities in arts and cultural activities. Towards this end, arts and cultural activities, which include traditional and modern dance, drama, and music, will be promoted through the organization of campaigns, exhibitions and performances at the district and state levels, to increase appreciation of the nation's rich cultural heritage. To facilitate the implementation of these activities, districts will be provided with the necessary physical facilities and support. Activities to foster and enhance national integration and instill racial harmony, such as dance festivals and cultural camps, will continue to be organized. In addition, the completion of a new campus for the National Arts Academy in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur in 2003 will further promote the development of the creative and performing arts as well as provide an avenue for nurturing talents in these areas, especially among youths.

18.91 Emphasis will be given to the development and promotion of performing and fine arts in institutions of higher learning. Existing courses and programmes

in performing arts conducted in these institutions will be expanded and courses in new areas introduced to provide more opportunities to students and the general public to develop their talents in these areas.

18.92 To inculcate greater awareness among the public of Malaysia's history and national heritage, the preservation and conservation of historical places, monuments and artifacts will be continued. Consistent with the provisions in the Antiquities Act 1976, measures will continue to be undertaken to control the outflow of antiquities and historical objects of national importance.

18.93 During the Plan period, the Malay World Ethnology Museum will be constructed at Bangi, Selangor. This Museum, when completed in 2003, will collect, preserve, undertake research and disseminate knowledge on Malay culture and heritage, thus becoming a repository of Malay cultural heritage. To preserve and exhibit the uniqueness of the *Orang Asli* heritage, an *Orang Asli* Arts and Craft Museum will be built in Sungai Buloh, Selangor and will be operational in 2004.

18.94 In order to achieve international recognition for the conservation of historical monuments, efforts will continue to ensure that conservation activities are undertaken according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Guidelines for the Conservation of Historical Monuments. To allow for a more coordinated and integrated approach towards conservation, areas that contain specific features of historical importance such as buildings and monuments, will be identified and designated as historical zones. These zones will be developed to provide the necessary facilities as tourist destinations. In addition, to enhance the country's image, efforts will be undertaken to preserve Malaysian architectural heritage in its original form or showcased in public buildings.

18.95 During the Plan period, a National Automobile Museum will be built as a source of historical knowledge and information through the exhibition of vehicles used for historical events as well as to showcase Malaysia's achievement in the automotive industry. Exhibits in this museum will include vehicles used by dignitaries or for specific historical events, locally produced automobiles as well as engine components, mechanical equipment and petroleum products, which reflect the technologies used for the development of the automotive industry.

18.96 Steps will be taken to make Malaysia the centre of excellence in arts and culture for the Asia-Pacific region. Towards this end, efforts will be made to improve the quality of cultural performances through training of artistes and identification of new talents. The availability of world-class facilities such as the *Istana Budaya* and the PETRONAS Philharmonic Hall will allow for the hosting of more international arts and cultural events in the country, including well-known musicals. The organization and presentation of such events will promote the development of performing arts in the country as well as provide exposure and be a source of inspiration for talented Malaysians to strive for international recognition.

Community Development

18.97 The rapid pace of globalization will have an impact on the integrity of the family structure and traditional communities, as well as influence cultural values and norms in social integration and nation building. Efforts will thus be undertaken to ensure that society is resilient to withstand negative influences that may affect social harmony and tolerance. Towards this end, community development programmes will be intensified in the urban and rural areas to focus on fostering neighbourliness and harmonious living among the various communities as well as inculcating the spirit of self-reliance.

18.98 Recognizing the importance of ensuring that the young are imbued with values of tolerance and mutual respect, while at the same time preparing for formal schooling, pre-school classes will continue to be established. In addition, vision schools will be established to facilitate intermingling among children from different ethnic backgrounds. Schools will also be encouraged to introduce additional co-curricular activities, such as the establishment of unity clubs, to further promote and strengthen inter-racial understanding.

18.99 The scope of *Rukun Tetangga* programmes will be expanded to include social outreach efforts that will focus on specific target groups, such as the disabled, single mothers, and former drug addicts. Resident associations as well as social and recreational clubs established in areas without *Rukun Tetangga* committees will also be encouraged to extend their social outreach programme to promote mutual respect and tolerance among the various communities.

18.100 Efforts to further promote national integration will be undertaken during the Plan period. In particular, celebrations of the *Pesta Gawai* and the *Pesta Kaamatan* will simultaneously be undertaken in the Federal Territory of Kuala

Lumpur to display the rich cultural heritage and traditions of various ethnic minority groups in Sabah and Sarawak. Orientation courses for officers from Peninsular Malaysia serving in Sabah and Sarawak and vice versa will also be expanded to include uniformed personnel and those in the private sector.

18.101 In line with the new rural development philosophy, community development programmes will be further strengthened to create a modern and self-reliant rural society. Emphasis will be given to expanding activities, providing more opportunities for pre-school education, strengthening the *Gerakan Desa Wawasan* programme, restoring good values and ethics as well as exposing rural communities to ICT. For the *Orang Asli* community, more efforts will be undertaken to provide education and skills training, especially among youths through greater cooperation and coordination with existing skills training institutes.

Family Development

18.102 While it is clear that economic development will have profound consequences on the nation's social and cultural circumstances, it is important to ensure that the population is able to cope with social changes that arise as a consequence of development. In this regard, action will be taken to diagnose, predict and manage these consequences. Greater emphasis will be given to social science research, the findings of which will be used to formulate relevant policies and social development programmes. In addition, social impact assessments for major projects will also be undertaken.

18.103 To ensure that social development programmes are implemented in an integrated and systematic manner and to obtain maximum benefits and results, PINTAS will be implemented nation-wide. Towards this end, the commitment and cooperation of all state governments, the private sector, NGOs, the local community and individuals is necessary to ensure prevention and professional management of social problems.

18.104 During the Plan period, emphasis will continue to be given to strengthening the *family* unit that forms the basis for social stability and building a caring society. Efforts will thus be undertaken to prepare families to face the challenges arising from rapid economic development as well as ensuring the maintenance of stability and harmony within the family unit. Research into the inter-relationships and dynamics of the family unit will be given priority and will be used as input in the formulation of policies and programmes to further strengthen the family.

18.105 The family size, which was 4.7 persons in 1995 decreased to 4.52 in 2000, is forecasted to further decrease to 4.3 in 2005, while the number of older persons is expected to increase from 0.9 million in 2000 to 1.04 million in 2005. This concurrent phenomena of decreasing family size and increasing number of older persons, as well as other demographic and social factors affecting the family structure, such as the diminishing role of the extended family, will require the establishment of formal institutions to share or take over the traditional responsibilities of families. Support systems for the care of the young and older persons will have to be strengthened. Towards this end, the involvement of the private sector and NGOs in forming smart partnerships with the Government will be encouraged.

18.106 Efforts will be undertaken to ensure the provision of quality services at care centres. Enforcement of the Care Centre Act 1993 will be further strengthened to ensure that a certain standard of care and service is provided for the welfare of residents at these centres. The private sector as well as NGOs will also be encouraged to provide facilities to care for the disadvantaged. To enable working mothers to breastfeed and care for their young children, employers will be further encouraged to provide nurseries at the workplace. In addition, more intensive efforts will be undertaken to educate the Malaysian public on the benefits to the family and society when both men and women share family responsibilities.

18.107 With increasing urbanization, there is the need to ensure that urban centres have the necessary social facilities, such as adequate housing, educational and recreational facilities, as well as amenities for the disabled and the elderly. Efforts will be undertaken to ensure that new urban centres are properly planned to provide for these facilities to ensure a more comfortable, friendly and healthy environment. During the Plan period, programmes for *children* will focus on the provision of proper care and protection in order to contribute to their healthy and wholesome development. To ensure that children left in the care of child-minders receive quality care, efforts will be undertaken to conduct appropriate training for child-minders throughout the country. Homes established for children in need of protection and rehabilitation will be further upgraded and equipped with more up-to-date facilities such as educational and recreational facilities to enable these children to have access to and develop in a normal environment. To enable disabled children to grow and develop within a family environment, more group homes will be established with the cooperation of the private sector.

18.108 With the increasing population of *older persons* there is a need to ensure their integration and continued active participation in society. Towards this end, awareness and education campaigns to highlight the implications of ageing and the need to practise a healthy and productive lifestyle will continue to be undertaken. In line with the caring society concept, the family will continue to be encouraged to take care of older persons. For families that are unable to care for older persons during the day, 19 day-care centres will be built and operated in collaboration with NGOs. Through this programme, traditional values such as filial piety and respect for older persons will be upheld, while at the same time making it possible for families to take advantage of the experience and wisdom of older persons.

18.109 Programmes to integrate the *disabled* into society and enable them to lead a normal life will be further intensified. To allow for proper planning of programmes and facilities for the disabled, a database of all the disabled in the country will be established. In order to provide the necessary training and rehabilitation for the disabled, the Government will ensure the adequate supply of trained manpower in areas such as physio, speech and occupational therapies. Efforts will also be undertaken to identify children with disabilities at the pre-school and primary level to ensure that appropriate treatment and care is provided early. To enable the disabled to be economically independent, training on a residential and non-residential basis, will continue to be provided at various institutions in the country.

18.110 Recognizing the importance of training in the handling of social problems and undertaking social work, the completion of the Social Institute of Malaysia in 2001 and the implementation of various training programmes will contribute towards providing a more professional perspective to social work and social development. The Institute, which will have a training capacity for 300 trainees, will provide training in areas such as family development, psychology, sociology, social work, and counselling for volunteers and members of NGOs as well as provide retraining and in-service training for social workers.

18.111 In the spirit of cooperation and partnership, NGOs will continue to play important roles in complementing the efforts of the Government in the provision of social services for the family, children, older persons and the disabled. Towards this end, the Government will continue to provide the necessary assistance to ensure that programmes undertaken by NGOs will contribute towards further improving the quality of life of the disadvantaged.

IV. ALLOCATION

18.112 During the Eighth Plan period, the development allocation for housing and other social services amounted to RM8.7 billion, as shown in *Table 18-4*. In line with the Government's efforts to expedite housing development, particularly for the low-income group, an allocation of RM4.2 billion will be provided for public and rural housing development programmes. Of the total allocation for public housing programmes, RM2.0 billion or 47.8 per cent will be utilized to provide housing for public sector employees and RM2.2 billion or 52.2 per cent for public low-cost housing and housing for the poor. A sum of RM4.5 billion will be allocated for other social services including RM598 million for community and family development programmes.

TABLE 18-4			
DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATION FOR HOUSING AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES, 2001-2005 (RM million)			
Programme	7MP		8MP
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation
Housing	3,372	3,331	4,223
Public Housing	3,190	3,165	4,018
Low-cost Housing	1,208	1,204	1,980
Site & Services	21	19	20
Government Quarters & Other Staff Accommodation	1,961	1,943	2,018
Rural Housing	183	166	205
Rehabilitation of Dilapidated Housing	100	84	100
Traditional Village Regrouping & Rural Growth Centres	83	82	105
Other Social Services	3,914	3,543	4,454
Local Authorities	1,092	1,047	1,942
Fire & Rescue Services	496	496	800
Sports	1,097	980	540
Culture	354	297	220
Library Services	86	69	100
Information & Broadcasting	246	192	254
Community & Family Development	542	462	598
Total	7,286	6,874	8,677

V. CONCLUSION

18.113 During the Seventh Plan period, the overall performance of the housing development programme showed remarkable progress. With regard to other social services, the programmes implemented resulted in an improvement in the quality of life, particularly for the rural population. During the Eighth Plan period, priority will be given to the provision of adequate, affordable and quality houses, particularly low- and low medium-cost houses. With rapid development and the ensuing rural-urban migration, efforts will be undertaken to expand and upgrade the quality of urban services to ensure a more conducive living environment and improved quality of life. The implementation of various programmes aimed at strengthening family ties and greater participation in sports and cultural activities will also bring about a united and caring society as well as enhance the aesthetic aspect of the individual and the community.