

Chapter 18

Housing and Other Social Services

18

HOUSING AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

I. INTRODUCTION

18.01 Housing and other social services are aimed at improving the quality of life and the overall well-being of the population. During the Sixth Plan period, the development of housing was undertaken to provide Malaysians, particularly the low-income group, accessibility to adequate and affordable shelter. In this respect, the performance of housing programmes was very encouraging with the overall achievement surpassing the Plan target. The implementation of other social services programmes such as sports, library services, information and broadcasting, culture and community development, further contributed towards improving the general welfare of the people as well as creating a well-informed society. At the same time, the Sixth Plan emphasized the strengthening of the family as an institution through the introduction of the family development programme in 1991. This programme contributed towards family stability and the formation of a caring society.

18.02 During the Seventh Plan period, the objective of the housing development programme is to provide Malaysians of all income levels accessibility to adequate, affordable and quality houses. The implementation of housing programmes will continue to give priority to the development of low-cost houses and greater emphasis to the development of low medium-cost houses so as to ensure the low and lower-middle income groups have access to adequate and affordable houses. In this regard, the private sector will play a major role in the implementation of the housing programme, particularly in the provision of low-cost and low medium-cost houses. The implementation of other social services programmes will be continued and expanded with a view towards inculcating positive values, encouraging self-reliance and creating a well-informed society. With respect to family development, efforts will be made to strengthen the family unit to cope with changes as the country moves towards greater industrialization. The family development programme will be expanded to ensure family and societal stability.

II. PROGRESS, 1991-95

Housing

18.03 The provision of housing continued to be given emphasis during the Sixth Plan period in order to ensure that all Malaysians, particularly the low-income group have access to adequate and affordable shelter. To provide adequate housing, various programmes were undertaken by the public sector, namely the public low-cost housing programme, the sites and services programme, the traditional village regrouping programme, the housing rehabilitation programme and housing for public sector employees. The private sector played a significant role in undertaking programmes to provide low-cost, medium- and high-cost houses as well as housing for estate and industrial workers. Housing programmes continued to be implemented based on the human settlement concept, whereby housing estates were provided with related facilities and services.

18.04 During the Sixth Plan period, a total of 573,000 units of houses was planned for construction to meet new requirements and replacement of dilapidated units. As shown in *Table 18-1*, the overall achievement of housing construction was very encouraging with the completion of 647,460 units or 113 per cent of the Plan target. The private sector, which was targetted to build 399,000 units or 70 per cent of the total, exceeded its target with the completion of 562,918 units, while the balance was built by the public sector. With regard to medium- and high-cost houses, a total of 386,074 units or 168.4 per cent of the Plan target was completed. This reflected the effective demand for such houses largely as a result of the higher levels of income.

18.05 With respect to low-cost housing, a total of 261,386 units of low-cost houses or 76 per cent of the target was completed. Of this, the *private sector* completed 214,889 units, of which 131,325 units were under the Special Low-Cost Housing Programme (SLCHP) and 80,678 units under the ordinary housing programme. Under the ordinary housing programme, whereby the private sector was encouraged to undertake mixed development, the price of low-cost houses was maintained at RM25,000 per unit through cross-subsidy from high- and medium-cost to low-cost houses.

18.06 The *public sector* constructed 46,497 units of low-cost houses or 36.7 per cent of the target. Of the total units completed, 10,669 units were constructed by the State Governments and 18,804 units by Government agencies such as the Urban Development Authority (UDA) and State Economic Development Corporations (SEDCs). In addition, 4,800 units of quarters were constructed by various Government agencies. The low achievement by the public sector was

TABLE 18-1

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENT, 1991-95
(units)

| Programme | Sixth Plan Target | | | | Completed, 1991-95 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | Low-cost | Medium-cost | High-cost | Total | Low-cost | % of Target | Medium-cost | % of Target | High-cost | % of Target | Total | % of Target |
| Public Sector | 126,800 | 44,600 | 2,600 | 174,000 | 46,497 | 36.7 | 35,195 | 78.9 | 2,850 | 109.6 | 84,542 | 48.6 |
| Public Low-cost Housing | 24,430 | - | - | 24,430 | 10,669 | 43.7 | - | - | - | - | 10,669 | 43.7 |
| Sites & Services | 15,570 | - | - | 15,570 | 4,707 | 30.2 | - | - | - | - | 4,707 | 30.2 |
| Housing by Commercial Agencies | 13,100 | 29,900 | 2,300 | 45,300 | 18,804 | 143.5 | 20,802 | 69.6 | 2,709 | 117.8 | 42,315 | 93.4 |
| Housing by Land Schemes | 56,100 | - | - | 56,100 | 7,517 | 13.4 | 558 | 558.0 | - | - | 8,075 | 14.4 |
| Institutional Quarters & Staff Accommodation | 17,600 | 14,700 | 300 | 32,600 | 4,800 | 27.3 | 13,835 | 94.1 | 141 | 47.0 | 18,776 | 57.6 |
| Private Sector | 217,000 | 155,900 | 26,100 | 399,000 | 214,889 | 99.0 | 247,241 | 158.6 | 100,788 | 386.2 | 562,918 | 141.1 |
| Ordinary Low-cost Housing | 44,080 | - | - | 44,080 | 80,678 | 183.0 | - | - | - | - | 80,678 | 183.0 |
| Special Low-cost Housing Programme (SLCHP) | 171,620 | - | - | 171,620 | 131,325 | 76.5 | - | - | - | - | 131,325 | 76.5 |
| Medium-cost Housing | - | 145,800 | - | 145,800 | - | - | 240,069 | 164.7 | - | - | 240,069 | 164.7 |
| High-cost Housing | - | - | 24,900 | 24,900 | - | - | - | - | 99,541 | 399.8 | 99,541 | 399.8 |
| Cooperative Societies | 1,300 | 10,100 | 1,200 | 12,600 | 2,886 | 222.0 | 7,172 | 71.0 | 1,247 | 103.9 | 11,305 | 89.7 |
| Total | 343,800 | 200,500 | 28,700 | 573,000 | 261,386 | 76.0 | 282,436 | 140.9 | 103,638 | 361.1 | 647,460 | 113.0 |

mainly due to unsuitable project sites as a result of competing demand of more suitable land for other uses and high infrastructure and construction costs. These factors contributed to the increase in the cost of the house exceeding the fixed price of RM25,000. As the loan to State Governments to implement low-cost housing was based on this fixed price of RM25,000 per unit, they had to subsidize the difference between the actual cost and the selling price and were thus discouraged from implementing the programme. As a result, during the Plan period, only 57.9 per cent of the loan provided was utilized by the State Governments.

18.07 Several measures were undertaken by the Government to accelerate the implementation of housing programmes, particularly low-cost houses. In this regard, the Abandoned Housing Projects Fund was established in 1990 to assist housing developers to complete their projects as well as assist buyers secure financing for their houses. About 12,395 units of houses, involving financial assistance of RM223 million from the Fund, were successfully revived. Since March 1992, new applications to the Fund were not accepted in view of the increasing ability of developers to secure finance for reviving the projects.

18.08 In order to expedite the construction of low-cost houses, several funds were established. In 1993, the Low-Cost Housing Fund was established with an allocation of RM500 million. Since the launching of the Fund, loans amounting to RM405 million were approved to the private sector to finance the construction of 20,700 units of low-cost houses. Of this, 600 units of houses were completed during the Plan period. In 1994, the *Yayasan Perumahan Untuk Rakyat Termiskin* was established with an allocation of RM600 million contributed by the public and private sectors. Allocations from this Fund were provided as grants to State Governments, SEDCs and local authorities to finance the construction of low-cost high density flats for rental in major towns which had acute housing problems. Since the launching of the Fund, 34 projects, which involved 15,000 units of low-cost flats valued at RM600 million, were approved for construction. To further increase and accelerate the construction of affordable houses to the low-income group in urban areas, the *Tabung Pusingan Perumahan Kos Rendah* was established in 1994 with an allocation of RM1 billion. Since its establishment, 14 projects involving the construction of 41,068 units were approved.

18.09 *End-financing* for buyers of various categories of houses including private low-cost houses was made available through commercial banks and financial institutions. Total loan outstanding from these private financial entities during the Plan period was RM6.5 billion. In addition, loan disbursed under the Government Housing Loan Scheme amounted to RM6.7 billion.

18.10 The Government, through the Employees Provident Fund (EPF), revised the withdrawal scheme for housing. Under this revision, a subscriber is allowed to withdraw up to 30 per cent of his savings to buy or build a house, or to reduce or settle housing loan repayments. Since the introduction of this scheme, 88,758 applications were approved and a total of RM1.1 billion was withdrawn for this purpose.

18.11 Accessibility to end-financing for low-cost houses, particularly those without fixed income was rather limited. For public low-cost houses, the purchase did not involve a loan transaction but individual buyers signed separate sales agreements with respective State Governments. Under the agreement, buyers were charged an interest rate of 5.5 per cent per annum on the actual purchase price. The land and the house served as collateral to the loan which had repayment periods ranging from 25 to 30 years.

18.12 The Government also operated an interest-free housing loan scheme funded under a revolving fund known as the Housing Loan Trust Fund. This Fund was aimed at assisting the low-income group to secure financing to build houses on their land. The maximum loan under this scheme is RM7,500 to be repaid between five to 20 years. The loan was to enable a borrower with a monthly household income not exceeding RM700 to build a new house costing not more than RM20,000, with the land charged as collateral. At the end of the Plan period, 3,926 loans amounting to RM27 million were disbursed to the target group, particularly rubber tappers, farmers, fishermen, labourers, petty traders and industrial workers.

18.13 *Housing Development in Rural Areas.* During the Plan period, several housing programmes were implemented in the rural areas to provide better housing and living conditions to the rural population. These included the sites and services programme, traditional village regrouping programme, and rehabilitation of dilapidated houses for the low-income group and the hard-core poor. In addition, the Government also constructed 8,075 housing units for settlers in new land development schemes.

18.14 Under the *sites and services* programme, two development packages were made available. The first package comprised site and infrastructure preparation and a core-house costing RM10,000 for a house built in Peninsular Malaysia and RM13,000 for a house in Sabah and Sarawak. The second package, which excluded the core-house, was valued at RM5,000 for Peninsular Malaysia and RM7,500 for Sabah and Sarawak. Of the 15,570 units targetted for

implementation, only 10,543 units were approved by the various State Governments and 4,707 were completed, indicating the slow implementation of this programme by the State Governments, particularly in the developed states where the price of land was expensive.

18.15 The *traditional village regrouping programme* aimed to resettle villages which are scattered and isolated, flood-prone as well as those affected by coastal erosion. Families in these villages were regrouped in new settlement areas and provided with housing and basic amenities such as water and electricity. During the Plan period, of the 36 projects approved, only 28 projects covering 102 such villages were regrouped into 28 cluster villages benefitting about 4,930 families.

18.16 Under the *housing rehabilitation programme* for the low-income group and the hard-core poor, material assistance were provided to rehabilitate dilapidated houses. During the Plan period, about 36,000 dilapidated houses were rehabilitated benefitting about 36,117 families.

18.17 In order to uplift the quality of life of the rural community, the Government undertook to provide traditional villages with better infrastructure facilities, reasonable quality houses and greater opportunities to participate in income-generating activities. Under this concept, five traditional villages namely, Kampung Batu Bertangkup in Perlis, Kampung Sungai Acheh in Pulau Pinang, Kampung Sungai Renggam in Perak, Kampung Merbau Berdarah in Selangor and Kampung Soi in Pahang were provided with basic amenities. In addition, areas in these villages were earmarked for housing and light industries. Although the sites and facilities for housing and light industries were provided, the response from the private sector to develop them was not encouraging.

18.18 *Housing for Public Sector Employees.* Apart from providing houses for the low-income group, the Government also provided houses for public sector employees, particularly the uniformed personnel. During the Plan period, a total of 18,776 housing units was provided for employees in essential services such as the armed forces, customs, fire services, immigration and police. In addition, housing was also provided to public sector employees such as teachers and medical personnel serving in rural and remote areas where suitable accommodation was not available.

18.19 *Housing for Estate and Industrial Workers.* Housing for estate workers was given emphasis with the implementation of the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act, 1990. The Act stipulated the responsibility of

estate owners to provide free housing as well as creches and social amenities of a certain minimum standard for their workers. The provision of these facilities were aimed at improving living conditions of estate workers and to retain them in the plantation. In addition, the voluntary house ownership scheme was implemented whereby estate owners developed and sold low-cost houses at RM25,000 each. During the Plan period, about 8,740 units of houses were built by estate owners under the free accommodation scheme and another 4,700 housing units under the voluntary house ownership scheme.

18.20 During the Plan period, employers in the manufacturing sector were encouraged to provide accommodation and recreational facilities for their workers. In this regard, several employers in the States of Melaka, Pahang, Perak, Pulau Pinang and Selangor rented or bought 3,348 units of houses to meet the accommodation needs of their workers.

18.21 *Housing Technology, Research and Development.* In order to enhance the development of the building industry, particularly in design and construction technology, research and development (R & D) activities were undertaken by the relevant Government agencies and institutions of higher learning. Research undertaken included those related to joints and tolerances in buildings, aimed at producing suitable joints for adoption by the construction industry. A familiarization and action programme on the implementation of modular coordination in building as a tool towards rationalization of the building industry was also conducted. In addition, research activities resulted in alternative designs for medium-rise high-density housing being introduced with certain improved features and characteristics to maximize land utilization. Building material producers and individual housing developers also undertook their own research activities on housing design and production technology, in the effort to enhance the quality of houses at reasonable prices. As part of the effort to improve housing design and technology, particularly in the construction of low-cost houses, the Government organized a low-cost housing competition whereby participating developers were required to build a low-cost house below the fixed price of RM25,000 per unit by utilizing the appropriate technology.

Other Social Services

Services in the Local Authorities

18.22 Local authorities perform various obligatory and discretionary activities such as the provision of urban services, recreational facilities and implementation

of socio-economic programmes. Within this context, an allocation of RM315 million was provided to the local authorities during the Plan period. Various activities undertaken included the construction of 117 wet markets and 264 commercial premises such as arcades, bazaars and stalls which provided wider opportunities for small traders to participate in commercial activities. The local authorities also handled an estimated 13.8 million tonnes of municipal solid waste throughout the Sixth Plan period. As part of the efforts to gradually phase out the open dumping method currently adopted by many local authorities, a modern waste disposal system was introduced. In this regard, a total of 25 disposal sites was upgraded to ensure safe and hygienic disposal, while eight new sanitary landfill projects were completed during the Plan period. In order to create better management and efficient waste collection and disposal, steps were taken to privatize the collection and disposal of solid waste throughout the country.

18.23 Cleanliness and beautification programmes were launched during the Plan period to create an awareness among the general public on the importance of a clean and beautiful environment. In this respect, various public amenities were provided by the local authorities and about 1.4 million trees planted. In order to meet the increased demand for recreational parks and open spaces, 11 public parks were planned during the Plan period of which nine were completed. About RM38 million was utilized for the recreation and beautification programmes during the Sixth Plan period. Since the implementation of these programmes, the general cleanliness of major towns had relatively improved.

Fire Services

18.24 Various measures were undertaken to provide effective fire prevention and fire-fighting services aimed at protecting life and property. During the Plan period, 53 new fire stations were constructed in urban areas and small towns throughout the country. Sophisticated and modern vehicles and fire rescue equipment were acquired to strengthen and upgrade the fire services to cope with fire-fighting activities, particularly in high-rise buildings. In-service training for personnel of the Fire Services Department was also undertaken to upgrade their skills and performance, particularly in new areas of fire-fighting and rescue. A special unit, the Hazardous Material Team (HAZMAT), was established in 1992 to handle emergencies related to hazardous materials such as gas explosions, toxic leakages and petro-chemical spills. In this regard, 22 selected personnel from HAZMAT were sent abroad for specialized training in the areas of gas and radio active materials. The establishment of the team helped

to enhance the capability of the fire services, particularly in the handling of cases involving specific hazardous materials. Personnel from the Fire Services Department were also seconded to be part of the newly established Special Malaysia Assistance Rescue Team to provide assistance in the event of national disasters and emergencies.

18.25 As a part of the public awareness campaign in preventing and controlling fire occurrences, particularly in high-risk buildings and industrial premises, the Fire Services Department organized joint training programmes, seminars and fire drills with the private sector. In addition, volunteer fire-fighting brigades were established in housing estates to enable prompt action to be taken during fire occurrences. During the Plan period, about 6,500 volunteer firemen and 15,000 students under the cadet corp programme were trained to ensure timely action by a well-trained community in the event of fire.

18.26 To provide immediate response to fire occurrences, a computerized monitoring fire alarm panel system was introduced in 1994 on a privatized basis. Under this system, all strategic and high-risk buildings were encouraged to be connected to the nearest fire station through computers. By the end of the Plan period, about 150 buildings from a total of 500 identified premises had installed the system. In addition to fire-fighting, the fire department personnel also performed rescue works in the event of landslides, building collapses and road accidents. During the Plan period, 32,080 rescue works were undertaken by the Fire Services Department.

Sports

18.27 The National Sports Policy, adopted in 1989, provided general guidelines for the development of sports and focused on high performance competitive sports and mass participation in sports programmes. Mass sports programmes were organized to promote a healthy lifestyle as well as goodwill and rapport among Malaysians as part of the effort to foster national solidarity. The activities carried out at the national, state and district levels included the launching of the *sports for all year* in 1991, 5-10 kilometre run, Walking Day, rowing, rafting, Merdeka Games sports events, and other recreational activities.

18.28 High performance sports programmes were aimed at achieving excellence in national and international competitions. In this regard, the National Sports Council (NSC) was entrusted with the development and promotion of high performance sports. In order to enhance the performance of Malaysian athletes,

various programmes such as *Pelapis*, *Bakat* and *Elit* were undertaken to nurture and promote excellence in sports. In addition, *Sukan Malaysia* was organized once in two years to assess the performance of the national athletes in the various fields of sports. During the Plan period, the NSC provided training to about 11,900 athletes, while existing sports facilities were upgraded and new ones constructed to provide standard venues and better facilities for the development of sports in the country. These included the construction of sports complexes in Johor, Kedah and Negeri Sembilan and the completion of new stadiums in Melaka and Perlis. The National Sports Institute was established in 1994 to conduct courses in sports science and sports medicine.

18.29 Various incentives were provided by the Government to those participating in sports including the disabled. These incentives, among others, included presentation of awards, granting of leave and the provision of living allowance and insurance coverage. Students who excelled in sports were provided with scholarships and tuition fees as an incentive to sustain their level of high performance in sports. In 1994, the NSC, with the cooperation of *Majlis Sukan Sekolah-Sekolah Malaysia*, introduced *Anugerah Sukan Remaja* for students who excelled in sports.

18.30 Selected secondary schools were designated as sports schools which provided special coaching to students in various sports. A sports school with residential facilities was built in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur, to provide secondary education, as well as intensive training to selected students who excelled in sports.

18.31 The private sector also played a significant role by sponsoring the activities of various sports associations. Under the twinning programmes, private companies contributed financial assistance of about RM19.5 million yearly to the NSC for the development of 28 sports such as soccer, badminton, hockey and gymnastics.

18.32 In preparing to host the Sixteenth Commonwealth Games in 1998, various projects were implemented to ensure adequate facilities of international standards. In this regard, the construction of the National Sports Complex and Games Village at Bukit Jalil was privatized, while sports facilities for lawn bowling, rugby and volleyball were also being developed in all States. In addition, an internationally recognized Dope Control Centre was established at *Universiti Sains Malaysia* to serve as the regional centre for dope testing and control. SUKOM Ninety Eight Berhad was set up to be responsible for the

promotion of the Games both locally and abroad, while efforts were undertaken by the NSC to train the Malaysian contingent for the Games. Towards this end, a fund for the preparation and promotion of the games and training of athletes was established with contributions from the private sector.

Library Services

18.33 The library development programme is aimed at inculcating and promoting reading habits among the general public as part of the effort to develop a well-informed and knowledgeable society. In this regard, various measures were undertaken to provide an effective library service network in both the urban and rural areas. During the Plan period, library service outlets increased from 288 in 1990 to 487 in 1995, of which 372 or 76 per cent were in the rural areas. In addition, the number of mobile libraries serving the rural areas increased from 61 in 1990 to 100 in 1995. Membership in public libraries increased from 1.1 million in 1990 to 1.7 million in 1995, while the total number of collections increased from 798,000 in 1990 to 1.3 million in 1995.

18.34 The completion of the National Library building in 1993, equipped with the latest information technology and with a seating capacity for 1,000 users as well as an expanded collection of reading materials, attracted a wider membership. The National Library, in collaboration with the Malaysian Institute of Microelectronics Systems, established the National Library network infrastructure under the *Jaringan Ilmu* project. Under this project, the National Library had access to libraries in selected Government departments as well as public institutions of higher learning. With these linkages, users including researchers had immediate access to various publications and data.

Information and Broadcasting

18.35 Information and broadcasting services contributed towards the development of a well-informed society imbued with positive and strong moral and ethical values that is receptive to modernization. To ensure positive participation of the public in the development process, programmes such as the National Loyalty Campaign, the Nation-Building Programme and the Love The Nation Campaign were implemented throughout the country. These programmes helped to instil in the public an awareness of their role and contribution in the development of the country.

18.36 Efforts to upgrade and modernize the broadcasting services were undertaken by replacing ageing television (TV) and radio transmitters. These efforts resulted in improvement in the coverage of TV and radio in Peninsular Malaysia as well as Sabah and Sarawak. The TV coverage increased from 85 per cent in 1990 to 90 per cent in 1995 in Peninsular Malaysia and from 80 per cent to 85 per cent in Sabah and Sarawak during the same period. Radio coverage increased from 80 per cent in 1990 to 95 per cent in 1995 in Peninsular Malaysia and from 60 per cent to 85 per cent in Sabah and Sarawak during the same period. In addition, to ensure programmes contain good educational, cultural and entertainment value, contents of local and foreign programmes were reviewed through a selective process according to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Information.

18.37 Broadcasting time for TV and radio was also increased during the Plan period. Of the six national radio networks, three were on a 24-hour transmission, while television broadcasting increased from 12 to 18 hours daily. Radio broadcasting was made *listener friendly*, with every State having a local radio network catering to the needs of the local community as well as promoting domestic tourism in a particular locality.

18.38 To promote greater private sector participation in information and broadcasting activities, licences were issued to private entities to operate radio and TV services. Apart from a private highway radio network, a new private TV station and a Pay TV channel were launched in 1995. The production of local TV programmes was commercialized, while more attractive incentives were provided to the local production houses to ensure better quality programmes. Consequently, the number of private production companies increased from 150 in 1990 to 700 in 1995, while the number of companies which produced TV commercials tripled to 60 during the same period. As a result of competition, the overall quality of programmes improved.

Culture

18.39 Cultural programmes, as an instrument to improve the quality of life, enhance national identity, promote national integration and unity as well as maintain racial harmony were given greater emphasis during the Plan period. Efforts were also undertaken to strengthen cultural networking among various cultural institutions and voluntary organizations through activities such as music and arts performances, cultural shows, creative writing, research on *Bahasa Malaysia*, and various conventions and symposia on language and literature.

18.40 Various socio-cultural programmes and projects for the preservation, promotion and development of culture and the arts were undertaken during the Plan period. These included the construction of the Arts and Cultural Centres in Alor Setar, Ipoh, Kuantan and Pulau Pinang. The National Arts Academy conducted various courses to develop new professionals in the fields of theatre, creative writing, dance and music. An Experimental Theatre was built at the National Cultural Complex for artists as well as producers and arts enthusiasts to perform and appreciate the performing arts and other artistic activities.

18.41 Under the Antiquity Act, 1976, preservation, conservation and underwater salvage activities were undertaken with a view to enriching the national heritage as well as preserving them for future generations. Within this context, 50 monuments and historical sites were preserved, while about 1,500 cultural artifacts were acquired. In order to enrich the national cultural heritage, a replica of the Portuguese galleon was built in Melaka as a monument to remind Malaysians of the past history. In addition, underwater salvage activities were carried out and among the major discoveries were the Dutch merchantship *Diana* and warship *Nassau* in the Straits of Malacca.

18.42 Cultural and arts offices were established in all States to organize and manage cultural development programmes, maintain cultural networking and initiate cultural activities with cultural associations. To foster and enhance national integration and instil racial harmony, various activities were organized which included *Pesta Gawai*, *Pesta Kaamatan*, *Pesta Pantai*, Drum Festival as well as various dance festivals and socio-cultural camps.

18.43 Facilities to house national artifacts of historical significance were expanded with the completion of the National Historical Museum, Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial and the extension of the National Museum Building. Efforts were also undertaken to further enhance the role of *Bahasa Malaysia* as the pertinent intermediary of cultural and literary development. Within this context, about 230,000 new words and terminologies in various subjects were developed and introduced by the *Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka* and about 2,460 new titles were published during the Plan period. To encourage creativity and excellence in the fields of literature, arts and culture, the National Literary Award and the National Arts Award were conferred to individuals who excelled in the respective subjects such as creative writing, literature, drama, music, fine arts and the visual arts.

18.44 International cultural networking was enhanced through close cultural relations and mutual cooperation with other countries, particularly the developing countries. International exchanges of academicians, scholars, artists, writers, performers and dramatists were undertaken under the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information and the Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts, as part of the cultural enrichment and cultural exchange programmes. Cultural troupes from Malaysia participated in international festivals and accompanied Government missions abroad such as the international trade and tourism promotion missions. In addition, a total of eight cultural agreements was signed with Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chile, Iran, Peru, Sudan and Vietnam during the Plan period to promote global cultural networking.

Community Development

18.45 During the Sixth Plan period, community development programmes aimed at increasing the participation of the rural population in socio-economic development were undertaken. The objective of the programmes is to develop a well-informed, self-reliant and productive society imbued with positive values. The programmes included the provision of basic social amenities and family life education as well as participation in income-generating activities. The major beneficiaries of these programmes were the rural community and the *Orang Asli*. In the urban areas, community development was undertaken with the aim of promoting integration and national unity through various social and cultural programmes.

18.46 In line with the overall philosophy of developing a progressive society, programmes which instilled positive values were emphasized. In this regard, community development programmes undertaken by the Community Development Division (KEMAS) of the Ministry of Rural Development were aimed at ensuring that people in the rural areas, including the hard-core poor, benefitted from the socio-economic development of the country. Specific programmes implemented included the imparting of knowledge and skills to enable rural families to engage in income-generating activities, such as tailoring, handicraft, animal husbandry and vegetable farming. A total of 29,400 rural families benefitted from this programme. In order to ensure that children of rural families acquire basic education in their formative years, about 6,900 pre-school classes were established, benefitting about 200,000 children. As part of the family development programme, courses on family life, health education and home economics were implemented.

18.47 During the Plan period, programmes for the *Orang Asli* were implemented with the objective of encouraging them to be integrated into the mainstream of society and be self-reliant. Health, housing and education programmes were implemented to provide the *Orang Asli* with basic social amenities. Under the resettlement programme, a total of 2,970 families was resettled in 17 schemes where they were provided with opportunities to engage in income-generating activities such as vegetable and fruit farming, aquaculture and small-scale agricultural development. In order to provide better coordination and implementation of education programmes, all schools for *Orang Asli* children came under the purview of the Ministry of Education.

18.48 In the urban areas, various programmes to promote neighbourliness and foster national unity were undertaken through the *Rukun Tetangga* committees set up in housing estates throughout the country. During the Plan period, a total of 447 committees were established, bringing the total to 1,514 committees with a membership of about five million people. These committees performed vigilante functions and helped to reduce incidence of crimes in the respective housing estates as well as to foster community participation augmenting further caring and sharing of responsibilities. To facilitate the organizing of social and cultural activities, multi-purpose halls and sports complexes were built by the Government. In addition, the private sector and the community themselves contributed to maintain and complement further services to enhance social and cultural relations among the residents. Activities such as *gotong-royong*, neighbourhood watch, *Jiran Muda*, *Jiran Wanita*, work-camps and sports activities were undertaken with the objective of promoting national integration, mutual respect and harmonious living. In addition, a total of 103,000 children were registered at national unity pre-school classes set up in housing estates.

Family Development

18.49 Rapid industrialization and the resultant rural urban migration, mainly from among the youths, as well as changing lifestyles and negative influences had given rise to various social problems such as breakdown of the family unit, drug addiction, child abuse, marital break down and runaways. These negative trends had increased, whereby in 1994, there were 17,600 reported cases of drug addiction, 8,938 cases of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), 871 reported child abuse cases and 4,774 runaways. Based on the assumption that for each reported case there are four unreported cases, this situation, if not addressed will undermine social stability. Currently, there are various agencies

undertaking preventive and rehabilitative programmes for specific target groups such as children, youths and parents. Some of these programmes were implemented by the various ministries and agencies, at times resulting in lack of focus and coordination.

18.50 Recognizing that the *family* is the basic unit of society and the primary source of nurturing and caring, emphasis was given during the Plan period to programmes aimed at the establishment of strong and resilient families. Towards this end, the family development programme, aimed at developing the potential of individuals by providing a stable, healthy and happy family environment, was implemented. In addition, priority was given to the inculcation of positive values among the young with a view to developing quality manpower.

18.51 The family development programme, initiated in 1991, covered various modules which included family health, parenting, development of human potential, and AIDS and the family. To promote healthy families, information on health promotion and disease prevention, family planning, nutrition and child development was provided to families. AIDS awareness and education was also emphasized. The parenting skills module included child upbringing and discipline, interaction and communication between parents and children and improving self-esteem. In addition to intellectual and emotional development, the programme aimed at developing family members who were confident, responsible, considerate, hardworking and dedicated. As an initial step to the implementation of this programme, master-trainers from extension agencies, such as the Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA), the Federal Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (FELCRA) and KEMAS, were trained to conduct the family development programme. In this respect, 12 workshops involving 421 trainers were conducted during the period. In addition, a family development programme namely *Rumahku Syurgaku*, was introduced in 1995.

18.52 In view of the increasing number of reported cases of child abuse and the need to provide better legal protection for *children*, the Government enacted the Child Protection Act, 1991. The Act provided for the establishment of child protection teams at the State- and district-levels and child activity centres in areas with high incidence of child abuse. During the Plan period, 15 State- and 86 district-level child protection teams were established to coordinate and provide locally-based services to parents and children. These services included counselling, welfare and child protection. In addition, 45 child activity centres, which provided activities for children as well as counselling for both children and parents, were set up. A total of about 600 parents and about 8,000 children benefitted from the services provided at these child activity centres. In order

to ensure a more comprehensive approach to child development, the National Plan of Action for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children was launched in 1994. The Plan aimed at achieving specific goals for children in areas such as health, education and welfare.

18.53 In view of the increasing number of nuclear families and longer life expectancies, steps were taken to ensure that family ties were maintained and caring for the *elderly* continued to be the responsibility of the family. To encourage children to take care of the elderly, the Government beginning in 1992 provided tax relief to children for the medical expenses of their elderly parents. In addition, under the New Remuneration Scheme, medical benefits for public sector employees were extended to include their parents. For the elderly who were poor and had no dependants, eight homes with a capacity of 2,500 were provided by the Government. In addition, the Government approved the construction of a home for the elderly in Perlis during the Plan period. To ensure that the elderly are able to enjoy an independent and respectable quality of life, in 1995, the Government formulated the National Policy for the Elderly and drew up an Action Plan to operationalize this Policy. In line with the Government's objective to encourage non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide care for the elderly, the NGOs, with partial assistance from the Government, established 132 homes to provide care for about 1,000 elderly persons.

18.54 The Government continued to care for the *disabled* through the provision of education, training and rehabilitation programmes. In this regard, a special education programme for disabled children and for those with learning difficulties was implemented in 26 special schools. Children with hearing and sight impairment were provided with special aids and enrolled into 139 normal schools under the inclusive education programme. In addition, programmes to enable the disabled to gain economic independence continued to be undertaken through the provision of technical training. The construction of the Industrial Training Institute for the Disabled at Bangi, Selangor, which was completed in 1995, provided skill training on a non-residential basis to about 20 trainees. During the Plan period, the community-based rehabilitation concept, which involved the sharing of responsibilities between the family and the community, was introduced. Under this concept, 135 community-based rehabilitation centres catering to about 2,000 physically disabled and nine group homes for 25 mentally-retarded people were established in existing housing estates with a view to integrating them as part of the community.

18.55 Care for the disabled was further enhanced by making public premises more amenable for use by disabled persons. As an initial step, the Building By-laws, 1984 was amended in 1992 to ensure that public premises provided facilities and safety systems for the disabled. The Light Rail Transit (LRT) System II in Kuala Lumpur which is under construction, incorporates facilities and features which will enable the disabled to use the LRT.

18.56 During the period, NGOs complemented the efforts of the Government in providing social services for the family, children, elderly and the disabled in the areas of care, training, rehabilitation and counselling. In recognition of the need to upgrade the knowledge of members of NGOs in the areas of human development and social work, the Government provided training for about 2,700 volunteers at the Training Institute for Social Work at Kuala Kubu Bharu during the Plan period.

III. PROSPECTS, 1996-2000

Housing

18.57 Housing development programmes will continue to give emphasis to the provision of adequate, affordable and quality housing for all Malaysians, particularly the low-income group. Towards this end, the Government will provide the necessary support and regulatory measures to ensure the efficient development of the housing industry. A major development in the Plan period will be the substantial provision of low medium-cost houses costing between RM26,000 to RM60,000 per unit. This will enable buyers with monthly incomes ranging from RM751 to RM1,500 to purchase houses within their affordability. At the same time, the construction of low-cost houses will be increased to cater for those earning between RM500 to RM750 per month and the price will remain at RM25,000 per unit.

18.58 During the Plan period, the demand for houses is expected to increase due to the expanding population and the growing number of new households. A total of 800,000 units of houses will be required during the Plan period, of which about 740,000 units or 92.5 per cent will be built to meet the demand of new households, while the remaining 60,000 units will be for replacement houses. Of the total, about 235,000 units or 29.4 per cent is to meet the demand for low-cost houses, 350,000 units or 43.8 per cent for low medium-cost houses, 130,000 units or 16.3 per cent for medium-cost houses and the remaining 85,000 units or 10.6 per cent for high-cost houses, as shown in *Table 18-2*.

TABLE 18-2
HOUSING NEEDS BY STATE AND CATEGORY OF HOUSES, 1996-2000
(units)

| <i>State</i> | <i>Total Needs</i> | <i>New Requirements</i> | <i>Replacements</i> | <i>Housing for the Poor</i> | <i>Low-cost</i> | <i>Low Medium-cost</i> | <i>Medium-cost</i> | <i>High-cost</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Johor | 113,000 | 107,600 | 5,400 | 1,400 | 24,000 | 52,000 | 23,000 | 12,600 |
| Kedah | 51,000 | 46,800 | 4,200 | 3,000 | 16,000 | 25,000 | 4,900 | 2,100 |
| Kelantan | 44,000 | 34,000 | 10,000 | 5,500 | 17,000 | 18,000 | 2,000 | 1,500 |
| Melaka | 18,000 | 17,000 | 1,000 | 400 | 4,400 | 9,000 | 2,800 | 1,400 |
| Negeri Sembilan | 29,500 | 27,900 | 1,600 | 600 | 7,900 | 14,000 | 4,500 | 2,500 |
| Pahang | 36,000 | 33,000 | 3,000 | 800 | 10,000 | 19,000 | 4,300 | 1,900 |
| Perak | 59,000 | 53,800 | 5,200 | 1,800 | 17,200 | 29,000 | 8,000 | 3,000 |
| Perlis | 6,500 | 6,100 | 400 | 300 | 1,700 | 3,000 | 1,000 | 500 |
| Pulau Pinang | 36,000 | 34,300 | 1,700 | 500 | 7,000 | 17,000 | 7,000 | 4,500 |
| Sabah | 110,000 | 102,000 | 8,000 | 2,600 | 35,900 | 52,000 | 12,000 | 7,500 |
| Sarawak | 74,000 | 68,200 | 5,800 | 12,400 | 15,600 | 26,000 | 12,000 | 8,000 |
| Selangor | 157,000 | 148,500 | 8,500 | 1,200 | 26,800 | 59,000 | 38,000 | 32,000 |
| Terengganu | 27,000 | 24,300 | 2,700 | 4,300 | 8,700 | 11,000 | 2,000 | 1,000 |
| Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur | 34,000 | 31,900 | 2,100 | 100 | 5,900 | 14,000 | 8,000 | 6,000 |
| Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan | 5,000 | 4,600 | 400 | 100 | 1,900 | 2,000 | 500 | 500 |
| Total | 800,000 | 740,000 | 60,000 | 35,000 | 200,000 | 350,000 | 130,000 | 85,000 |

18.59 The private sector will play an increasingly important role in meeting the housing needs of the population. During the Plan period, the private sector is expected to construct about 570,000 units or 71.3 per cent of the total, as shown in *Table 18-3*. Of the total units to be constructed by the private sector, 24.6 per cent will be low-cost houses and 42.1 per cent low medium-cost houses.

18.60 Measures will be undertaken to expedite the development of low- and low medium-cost housing which will include the extension of the Low-Cost Housing Fund to the private sector to implement new projects. In this regard, the EPF through its subsidiary, the Malaysian Building Society Berhad will also participate in the construction of low-cost houses. The Government will also

TABLE 18-3
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING TARGETS, 1996-2000
(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 | 230,000 | 35,000 | 60,000 | 110,000 | 20,000 | 5,000 |
| (%) | 29.0 | 15.2 | 26.1 | 47.8 | 8.7 | 2.2 |
| Public Low-cost Housing | 29,000 | – | 29,000 | – | – | – |
| Housing Rehabilitation | 20,000 | 20,000 | – | – | – | – |
| Site & Services | 15,000 | 15,000 | – | – | – | – |
| Housing by Commercial Agencies | 54,000 | – | 23,000 | 16,000 | 10,000 | 5,000 |
| Housing by Land Schemes | 9,300 | – | 8,000 | 1,000 | 300 | – |
| Institutional Quarters & Staff Accommo- dation | 102,700 | – | – | 93,000 | 9,700 | – |
| Private Sector | 570,000 | – | 140,000 | 240,000 | 110,000 | 80,000 |
| (%) | 71.0 | – | 24.6 | 42.1 | 19.3 | 14.0 |
| Private Developers | 555,000 | – | 137,000 | 237,000 | 102,000 | 79,000 |
| Cooperative Societies | 15,000 | – | 3,000 | 3,000 | 8,000 | 1,000 |
| Total | 800,000 | 35,000 | 200,000 | 350,000 | 130,000 | 85,000 |
| (%) | 100.0 | 4.4 | 25.0 | 43.8 | 16.2 | 10.6 |

encourage the banking sector and financial institutions to provide greater access to end-financing, particularly for the low-income group and those in the informal sector. These institutions will also be encouraged to provide better terms for housing loans in order to reduce the burden of repayment for the low-income buyers.

18.61 Under the public low-cost housing programme, new designs will be introduced to optimize land-use through increased density and reduce construction cost. Through the application of the new designs, land plot utilization is expected to increase from 26 units to 41 units per hectare for low-cost houses, thereby increasing the land-use density. In addition, improved designs for low-cost flats will be introduced to provide adequate laundry areas.

18.62 During the Plan period, the Government will continue to provide allocation to the State Governments for the completion of the public low-cost houses under various stages of implementation. The Government will also provide grants to cover the infrastructure cost to State or local authorities where the costs exceed RM25,000 per unit due to the high cost of infrastructure.

18.63 With the registration of applicants for low-cost houses in all States, new guidelines will be drawn up to check abuses. Under these guidelines, applicants of public and private low-cost units will be selected from a central registry maintained by State Governments. This measure will ensure proper distribution of low-cost units and prevent genuine target groups from being denied the opportunity to buy or rent low-cost houses.

18.64 The Government will continue to encourage the private sector to implement the build-then-sell concept whereby, developers will only sell completed houses. In addition, appropriate funding mechanisms will be instituted, while regulatory and enforcement activities strengthened to ensure timely completion and delivery of quality houses. These measures are expected to address the problems of late or non-completion of houses and provide buyers with better quality houses.

18.65 *Housing Development in Rural Areas.* The provision of housing in the rural areas, including basic infrastructure facilities is aimed at improving the quality of life of the rural people. During the Plan period, RM200 million will be allocated for the development of housing in the rural areas compared with RM155 million during the Sixth Plan period. As part of an integrated approach in rural development, housing will become an integral component of a development package that includes infrastructural support and economic assistance. Housing activities in rural areas will be further promoted through the traditional village regrouping, sites and services and the rehabilitation of dilapidated houses programmes for the low-income group and the hard-core poor. In this respect, grants for the sites and services programme and the rehabilitation of dilapidated houses will be increased to provide better housing for the low-income group and the hard-core poor.

18.66 *Housing for public sector employees,* particularly those in the essential services, will be continued and emphasis will be given to providing housing in major towns, border areas as well as in remote areas in Sabah and Sarawak. Provision of housing to the uniformed personnel will also be given priority. During the Seventh Plan period, 102,700 units of various categories of houses will be built including those at Putrajaya.

18.67 *Housing for Estate and Industrial Workers.* As provided under the Act, estate owners will be required to provide better housing and basic amenities for their workers. This will contribute to reducing labour turnover in the estates. As part of the effort to attract and retain workers, employers in the manufacturing sector will be encouraged to provide housing and recreational facilities for their workers. The Government will also ensure that the development of industrial zones will be closely coordinated with housing development to enable adequate provision of housing and basic amenities for industrial workers.

18.68 *Housing Technology, Research and Development.* Research activities related to the production of cheaper building materials and better construction techniques will continue to be given emphasis. In this respect, a study will be undertaken with a view to improving the quality of design with regard to buildings and structures, so as to ensure minimum cost of rehabilitation and repair within the design life cycle. In order to reduce the dependence on imported building products, the development of building products using indigenous sources of raw materials will be encouraged. New building technologies in the construction of low-cost houses will be promoted to ensure that the houses built will be within the affordability of the low-income group. In this respect, technical research and development programmes to evaluate, test and upgrade indigenous materials will be carried out.

Other Social Services

Services in the Local Authorities

18.69 During the Seventh Plan period, the role of local authorities in the management of urban areas will further increase with rapid urbanization and the rising demand for more efficient services. Within this context, a comprehensive study will be carried out to review the role and functions of local authorities. Based on the findings of the study, new strategies and guidelines will be prepared to strengthen the management capability of local authorities as well as ensure that they carry out their roles and functions effectively.

18.70 Local authorities will continue to provide urban services and recreational facilities as well as implement cleanliness and beautification programmes. Strategic planning and maintenance of urban areas will be given special emphasis to reduce problems such as traffic congestion, air pollution and sanitation. In this regard, the preparation of local plans will continue to be undertaken by various local authorities. As part of the review of the role of local

authorities, consideration will be given to allow developers of housing estates to provide urban services such as maintenance, cleanliness and beautification of public areas within the housing estates. With the privatization of solid waste management during the Seventh Plan period, the disposal of solid waste will be handled in a more efficient manner.

Fire Services

18.71 Efforts to improve and upgrade fire services will be given further emphasis in order to increase capability and performance in fire-fighting and rescue works. During the Seventh Plan period, RM310 million will be provided to build 60 new fire stations in strategic locations, particularly near housing estates and industrial parks, while facilities in existing fire stations will be upgraded. A total of RM120 million will be allocated to purchase fire engines and related equipment to increase the effectiveness of fire-fighting services and rescue works.

18.72 Preventive measures will be taken to protect lives and properties from destruction through stringent enforcement regulations provided for in the Fire Act, 1988. In addition, efforts will be continued to instil awareness and responsibility among the general public and owners of residential, commercial and industrial premises on fire prevention and safety. Public awareness programmes will be undertaken through lectures, seminars, joint training and fire drills. The Government will support the establishment of more voluntary fire-fighting brigades in housing estates and in high-risk areas. These volunteers will be given adequate training in fire-fighting and prevention. In this regard, greater participation of youths and students will be encouraged.

18.73 Training facilities for fire personnel in all aspects of fire-fighting and rescue work will be expanded. A new regional training centre at Kuala Terengganu will be constructed in addition to the existing one at Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor. The centre, when completed, will provide an additional 250 places for the training of personnel of the Fire Services Department including skill upgrading and handling of fire cases involving gas and petro-chemicals.

Sports

18.74 Increasing efforts will continue to be undertaken to develop various sports programmes and activities to promote high performance and mass participation sports. To ensure that facilities are adequate, well-managed and

maintained, the Government will prepare a long-term plan on the future requirement of sports and recreational facilities. A Sports Act will also be formulated to ensure better and more effective coordination and management of sports activities by both the public and private sectors. With regard to high performance sports, 10 training centres for selected sports will be constructed with a view towards nurturing new talents. In addition, the training of athletes at the central and regional levels to prepare them for high level competition for major sports events will be intensified. The development of sports in the country will be further enhanced with the active involvement of the private sector, largely through its contributions to the sports associations and twinning programmes managed by the NSC.

18.75 In line with the commitment to provide the requisite infrastructure and facilities to host the Commonwealth Games, concerted efforts will be undertaken to accelerate the implementation of the various projects to ensure their timely completion. The construction of the National Sports Complex Village, which comprises the main stadium with 100,000 seating capacity, the indoor stadium and the swimming complex as well as the Games Village to house 6,500 participants and officials, will be completed before 1998. Other venues for training in various States will be upgraded and expanded.

18.76 Beside providing internationally-accepted venues for various competitions, efforts to improve the efficiency of the transportation system from Kuala Lumpur to the National Sports Complex will be undertaken. This includes the construction of the LRT System I Phase II, connecting Kuala Lumpur and National Sports Complex and improvements to major road networks and access roads to the Complex. In addition, an International Broadcasting Centre will be built and this Centre will transmit live telecast of all events in the Commonwealth Games and other sporting events which will be organized in the future.

18.77 In order to promote mass participation in sports and recreational activities to maintain a healthy lifestyle, various sports programmes and recreational activities will be organized at the national, state and district levels. These programmes include walking, aerobic exercise, cycling, horse riding and canoeing. The corporate sector is expected to support these programmes through their sponsorships so that sports can be enjoyed by everyone especially youths at the grassroot level. In addition, to promote greater participation in sports at the district level, adequate facilities will be built, particularly for badminton, *sepaktakraw* and volleyball.

Library Services

18.78 Continued emphasis will be given towards developing a knowledgeable and well-informed society. In this regard, efforts to inculcate reading habits among Malaysians will continue to be undertaken through the *Gerakan Membaca* Programme, while the library network throughout the country will be expanded to provide greater accessibility to library services. During the Plan period, RM79 million will be provided to construct six new state libraries, 19 district libraries and 166 village libraries. In addition, 70 units of mobile libraries will be in operation mainly in the rural areas. Measures will also be taken to expand the functions of State libraries as a focal point for reference and information service. In order to upgrade the quality of library services, efforts will be taken to provide specialized training for their staff, particularly in library management.

18.79 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 specialized subjects, particularly in science, technology and business. Under the Malaysiana Collection Programme, the collection of documents and materials pertaining to Malaysia will be intensified with a view to preserving all such documents as part of the national heritage. In line with the concept of library service networking, whereby information can be readily accessible from all locations, measures will be taken to computerize public libraries throughout the country. In addition, efforts will be undertaken to store information in multi-media forms such as cassette, video and CD-ROM so that these information and data can be readily accessible to researchers and the general public.

Information and Broadcasting

18.80 Information and broadcasting services will be upgraded in line with development of information technology to provide quality transmission throughout the country. In this context, the Malaysia East Asia Satellite (MEASAT) will be operational in 1996 and most of the transmissions will be relayed through satellite for quality reception of the programmes. In this regard, more private radio and TV stations will be encouraged to use the MEASAT facilities, thus giving consumers greater choices in the selection of various programmes including entertainment, culture, sports, education and information. In this respect, quality programmes will be aired over TV channels, particularly through *Rangkaian Perdana* and *Rangkaian Emas* in an effort to provide good educational, cultural and entertainment value programmes for viewers.

18.81 Terrestrial transmission, however, will continue to be expanded. Current radio and TV services will be further strengthened and improved. Special emphasis will be given to rural and remote areas in Sabah and Sarawak, to overcome poor reception in pocket and remote areas. The utilization of both satellite and terrestrial transmissions will contribute to the creation of an information-rich Malaysian society. Taking into account the infrastructural development of the information superhighway both within the country and its global link up, the merging of computer and communication technologies will offer Malaysians a whole range of multi-media opportunities with a number of value-added services.

18.82 The Government, in consultation with ASEAN counterparts, will implement the Common Regional Network with its base in Kuala Lumpur, to beam programmes of common interests and promote local culture and values. The transmission of the proposed network will be enhanced through the use of broadcasting facilities offered by MEASAT.

18.83 Efforts will be made to expedite the corporatization of *Berita Nasional Malaysia* (BERNAMA), and the privatization of *Jabatan Filem Negara* and *Perbadanan Kemajuan Filem Nasional* (FINAS). These changes will ensure the optimal utilization of resources to increase overall productivity, particularly in the production of quality films.

Culture

18.84 Cultural programmes will continue to be undertaken to enhance national unity and integration as well as uplifting the quality of life of the people. During the Plan period, cultural programmes will focus on arts and cultural development, arts and cultural conservation, excellence in arts and development in the visual arts. These programmes will play a major role in shaping society together with the effort to enhance national identity, national unity and harmonizing good universal and moral values consistent with the rapid growth of the economy.

18.85 The objectives of the cultural development programme are to enhance the role of cultural institutions as a vehicle and viable instrument for national identity and national integration, as well as to reaffirm national unity and racial harmony and the formation of a new *Bangsa Malaysia* in line with the National Cultural Policy and Vision 2020. The central theme is creating a cultured and mature society in an effort to counter the spread of negative aspects and to neutralize the intrusion of foreign culture that brings together negative influences.

18.86 Within this context, the development of a viable cultural industry emphasizing the growth of arts markets will be initiated as a new dimension in giving economic values to cultural activities as well as promotion of cultural activities. Various cultural programmes will also be organized to promote and familiarize the general public especially the youths with Malaysian culture. Among the programmes are traditional and modern music, dances, theatre, opera and poetry. With the construction of the National Theatre Complex and National Arts Gallery in 1997, high level culture will be promoted in society. Likewise, Malaysian architectural heritage and interior decoration will be promoted in all public buildings to enhance the Malaysian image.

18.87 A new campus for the National Arts Academy will be built to provide courses at diploma level in music, creative writing, dances and theatre. In addition, the conservation and preservation of historical places and monuments, will be continued so as to inculcate greater awareness among the public of the rich Malaysian cultural heritage by preserving and exhibiting items of historical importance.

18.88 During the Seventh Plan period, *Bahasa Malaysia* will be further developed with the aim of enriching and transforming it into a language of modern knowledge and communication. In addition, translation of foreign publications into *Bahasa Malaysia* will be continued especially in the fields of science and technology, philosophy and civilization. These efforts are important in developing a knowledgeable society in line with the efforts of transforming Malaysia into an industrialized nation. At the same time, selective literary and creative works in *Bahasa Malaysia* will be translated into other languages so as to introduce and popularize Malaysian literature at the international level.

Community Development

18.89 During the Seventh Plan period, community development programmes in the rural and urban areas will be continued to inculcate positive values oriented towards development and self-reliance as well as foster harmonious living and nurture the spirit of caring among the various communities. Community development programmes in the rural areas will focus on achieving excellence in the individual, a strong family institution and the development of a resilient and progressive rural community which will participate effectively in the process of economic development. This will be undertaken by coordinating and integrating various social and infrastructure development programmes as well as economic

activities by maximizing the utilization of resources. In addition, the programme for village beautification and cleanliness as well as rural industry development will be further encouraged in order to nurture caring and industrious culture among the rural communities.

18.90 The recently established Institute for Rural Advancement will undertake related training programmes for rural and community development as well as coordinate similar activities with other local and foreign institutions. Among others, its major objective is to produce change agents that will play the pivotal role in social change at the grassroots level and accelerate the process of attitudinal change in the rural community.

18.91 Activities to further foster community relations and imbue caring responsibilities among residents in urban and semi-urban areas as well as to promote more inter-racial understanding to strengthen national unity will be continued. During the Plan period, the setting up of more *Rukun Tetangga* committees in housing estates, with support from the Government, will be undertaken. The Government will encourage the establishment of similar committees in semi-urban areas comprising representatives of a number of neighbouring villages. Programmes such as neighbourhood watch, *Jiran Wanita*, *Jiran Muda*, *gotong-royong*, sports and leadership courses to promote neighbourliness will continue to be implemented. More pre-school classes will also be set up for children in the 5-6 age-group with the objective of preparing them for formal education as well as to instil elements of love and pride for the country.

Family Development

18.92 As the country moves towards the achievement of a fully industrialized society, the complexities and demands made on the individual and on families will increase and the inability to cope with these demands will increase further the occurrence of social problems. With the advancement and access to information technology and the role of the mass media, the dissemination of negative values and culture has to be monitored. During the Plan period, appropriate mechanisms will be instituted and social development programmes be undertaken to arrest such unhealthy trends.

18.93 During the Seventh Plan period, the Government will establish a high-level inter-agency committee to ensure that the country's economic progress is not negated by social problems. The functions of this committee will include

the formulation of policies and strategies for social and family development, the coordination and integration of programmes to minimize the occurrence of social problems and the provision of solutions to overcome these problems. The Government will identify a single agency to ensure coordination and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes so as to effectively arrest the occurrence of social problems and monitor the impact of social and economic development on the well-being of families.

18.94 The Government will continue to implement the family development programme aimed at strengthening the *family* institution to contribute towards producing responsible citizens. In this regard, efforts will continue to be undertaken to equip families to face the challenges arising from rapid economic development as well as maintaining stability and harmony within the family. Training and dissemination of information on the various modules of the family development programme such as family health, parenting skills, quality population and development of human potential will continue to be undertaken. Surveys on social trends, the contributory causes of social problems and impact studies will also be undertaken to determine the coverage and effectiveness of the family development programme. In addition, to minimize the involvement of children in unhealthy social activities, the Government will move progressively towards implementing single-session schools with the objective of providing education and more time for co-curricular activities for children throughout the day.

18.95 Women will continue to be provided with skills for family development in areas such as family life, family health, education and parenting skills. In addition, greater efforts will be undertaken to educate the Malaysian public on the benefits to society when both men and women share family responsibilities. Towards this end, seminars, courses and workshops will be organized to educate married couples and those contemplating marriage, instilling greater awareness and understanding of marriage and its responsibilities as well as parenting skills.

18.96 Recognizing the complexity of social problems, appropriate training in social work and human development, particularly in the areas of care, counselling, protection and prevention, will continue to be provided to social workers and members of NGOs to ensure that these personnel are equipped with adequate knowledge and skills to deal with various social problems. Towards this end, a new Training Institute for Social Work will be built in Kuala Lumpur. The Institute, when completed, will provide training to 150 trainees as well as be equipped with facilities to train the disabled in social work.

18.97 Development programmes for *children* will continue to be guided by the National Plan of Action for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children. Efforts will be taken to ensure and improve the quality of care provided for children at child-care and pre-school centres managed by both the public and private sectors. In this regard, a comprehensive programme for early childhood development will be formulated which will include a comprehensive curriculum for child-care and pre-school centres, standardization of teacher training and coordination of activities in the public and private sectors. In addition, three new homes for children will be built during the Plan period to provide care and protection for children in need of such services. Programmes, such as the establishment of child activity centres, child-protection teams, counselling services and the review of existing legislation to provide better protection for the well-being of children, will also be undertaken.

18.98 Planning for the *elderly* will take cognizance of changes in the characteristics and expectations of the elderly such as the need for greater financial and personal independence as well as developing relationships of mutual reliance rather than dependency. In this regard, the Action Plan to operationalize the National Policy for the Elderly will be implemented to ensure the integration and participation of the elderly in the development process. In line with the concept of a caring society, the family will continue to be encouraged to take care of the elderly. Likewise, care for the *disabled* will also be enhanced through community-based rehabilitation schemes and the establishment of training facilities. In addition to non-residential training, residential training will be provided to trainees at the Industrial Training Institute for the Disabled at Bangi, Selangor. To enable greater mobility for the disabled, the provision of facilities such as ramps and level sidewalks will be implemented by the relevant authorities. In addition to the Government's efforts, the NGOs and voluntary organizations are expected to play a more important role in the provision of essential social services, such as care of the elderly and support for the disabled.

VI. ALLOCATION

18.99 The development allocation and expenditure for housing and other social services during the Sixth Plan and the allocation for the Seventh Plan period are shown in *Table 18-4*. The allocation for housing amounts to RM3.6 billion of which RM3.3 billion or 93.2 per cent will be for public housing programmes. Of the total allocation for public housing programmes, RM2.5

TABLE 18-4

**DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATION FOR HOUSING
AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES, 1991-2000**
(RM million)

| <i>Programme</i> | <i>6MP</i> | | <i>7MP</i> |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | <i>Allocation</i> | <i>Expenditure</i> | <i>Allocation</i> |
| Public Housing | 2,013 | 1,754 | 3,340 |
| Low-cost Housing | 394 | 228 | 742 |
| Sites & Services | 51 | 36 | 98 |
| Institutional Quarters & Staff Accommodation | 1,568 | 1,490 | 2,500 |
| Rural Housing Development | 171 | 160 | 245 |
| House Rehabilitation Programme | 99 | 93 | 100 |
| Traditional Village Regrouping Programme | 51 | 49 | 77 |
| Rural Growth Centres | 21 | 18 | 68 |
| Other Social Services | 1,666 | 1,471 | 2,540 |
| Local Government | 315 | 281 | 511 |
| Fire Services | 248 | 236 | 430 |
| Sports | 411 | 408 | 488 |
| Culture | 210 | 147 | 302 |
| Library Services | 61 | 58 | 86 |
| Information & Broadcasting | 110 | 109 | 203 |
| Community Development | 192 | 162 | 322 |
| Family Development | 119 | 70 | 198 |
| Total | 3,850 | 3,385 | 6,125 |

billion or 74.9 per cent will be utilized to provide housing for public sector employees and RM742 million or 22.2 per cent for public low-cost housing. A sum of RM2.5 billion is allocated for other social services including RM520 million for community and family development programmes.

V. CONCLUSION

18.100 During the Sixth Plan period, the performance of the housing development programme had shown remarkable progress where the number of units completed exceeded the Plan target. Low achievement by the public sector was offset by

the high achievement of the private sector. However, the construction of low-cost houses still lagged behind in terms of progress compared with medium-cost and high-cost houses. With regard to other social services, the programmes implemented had resulted in an improvement of the quality of life, particularly for the rural population. As for family development, programmes during the Sixth Plan period continued to support and facilitate solidarity of families.

18.101 The provision of adequate and affordable housing will be a prime objective of the Government during the Seventh Plan period. Efforts will be undertaken to expedite the delivery of housing, particularly low-cost and low medium-cost houses. In this regard, the private sector will play a major role in the provision of all categories of houses, particularly low- and low medium-cost houses. To achieve better quality of life, infrastructure facilities for other social services will be expanded. These include the improvement of local authority services, upgrading of fire services, provision of better sports facilities, expansion of library service networking and modernization of broadcasting equipment. Programmes for family development will continue to be given priority during the Seventh Plan period. The focus will be to develop positive shared values and right attitudes to ensure the existence of the spirit of self-reliance and shared commitment towards establishing a caring society. In this regard, the community and the private sector, including NGOs, will supplement Government's efforts in family development.