

CHAPTER XIII

Social and Community Services

L—INTRODUCTION

554. The area of social and community services encompasses a variety of programmes designed to promote the welfare of the rural and urban populations by providing improved housing, community facilities, welfare and other services. The importance of such services extends beyond the number of tangible facilities provided or the quantity of resources utilized. These activities are concrete evidence of the government's concern and efforts to improve the welfare of the weaker sections of the population and emphasize the essential human value in national economic and social development.

555. The rapid growth of urban population over the last decade has resulted in acute over-crowding in Kuala Lumpur, Georgetown, Ipoh, Malacca and some other major towns. These towns grew up as small commercial centres serving the surrounding rural areas. With the unprecedented expansion of commercial activities in these towns, they have now outgrown their original scale and function. The prosperity in the towns has created an influx of people from the rural areas, drawn by better opportunities for earning a living. This movement has turned some parts of these towns into slums, giving rise to unhealthy living and social conditions. Government is determined to eliminate the undesirable and unhealthy effects of urbanisation and industrial growth through a well-conceived programme for urban renewal and development and to provide for orderly growth and transition in the years to come.

556. The problems which exist in the rural areas are of a different order. Although substantial progress has been made by the government in providing the rural areas with increasing social and community services, the scale of these facilities is still limited. In order to help enhance the

ing standards of the rural population, the First Malaysia Plan will seek further to improve the availability of community and social services in the rural areas.

7. The following paragraphs deal with some of the main government programmes in the area of social and community services.

—HOUSING

8. It is estimated that about \$850 million was invested in housing during the last five years by both the public and private sectors. Urban residential construction undertaken by the private sector showed a rising trend. It is anticipated that the volume of such construction will continue to increase during the First Malaysia Plan period.

9. Low-cost housing is one of the major efforts of the government to promote the welfare of the lower income groups. The incomes of this economically weak section of the community are too low to encourage private developers to enter this field of housing development. Although under the Constitution housing is a State subject, the Federal Government provides financial assistance by way of loan funds on generous terms to State governments to undertake low-cost housing projects. The services of the Housing Trust are made available to provide technical aid. Municipalities generally employ their own technical staff, although some use the Housing Trust.

10. Public expenditure for low-cost housing and housing for public employees in Malaya during 1961-65 amounting to about \$45 million and \$5 million respectively. A total of about 8,400 low-cost housing units was constructed, ranging from detached timber houses to multi-storey flats. In respect of housing for the public service, the main emphasis was on the construction and renovation of labour lines. A total of 4,837 units was built. During the same period, public expenditure for low-cost and other housing in Sabah and Sarawak amounted to \$9.8 million and \$7.5 million respectively.

11. Housing for both the lower income groups and public employees in some of the major urban areas remains in short supply relative to demand. In order to help meet the housing needs of these two groups, the Plan provides for a substantially larger scale of investment during the next five years. Locations for low-cost housing total \$150 million in Malaya. In Sabah and Sarawak \$5.0 million and \$7.5 million respectively have been allocated for low-cost and other housing. In addition expenditure for housing for public employees will be \$23.2 million in Malaya and \$2.4 million in Sabah. This will enable an intensified phase of housing development to take place so

that the most immediate problems posed by the housing shortage will be met.

562. In Malaya low-cost housing units will be built in the Federal Capital and in the larger urban areas in order to relieve congestion and combat the squatter problem. Slums will be cleared and squatters rehoused so that the land vacated can be utilized for other development purposes. In order to economise on the use of valuable land and reduce construction cost, multi-storey flats will be built. The prefabricated or industrial system of building construction will be introduced and at least three pilot projects undertaken. The benefits of this new technique of construction are expected to be speed and lower cost as compared with the conventional methods of construction. The pilot schemes are intended also to ascertain the feasibility of introducing the industrial system on a larger scale. In the smaller urban areas and in the rural areas timber and terrace houses will continue to be built.

563. The government is considering the establishment of a central housing authority to assist in the planning and effective implementation of an expanding programme of housing development. The authority is expected to co-ordinate the housing programmes of state governments and give technical guidance on matters relating to finance, siting, types of houses, costs, materials, desirable community facilities and other features requiring specialised knowledge. In the field of finance, the authority will explore possibilities of mobilising savings and other forms of private capital to supplement the funds that will be made available by the government and channel such financial resources as may be obtained for housing development. It is hoped also that the authority will conduct a survey of the housing needs of the country in order to formulate long-term plans for housing development.

564. In addition to public housing development, the government will give every encouragement and assistance to private housing developers.

565. Action will be taken by Federal, State and Municipal authorities during the Plan period to avoid the recurrence of slums and overcrowding in major urban areas. Measures to be taken include the control of urban land values and physical planning for the proper use of land in urban areas.

III.—MAJOR SEWERAGE SCHEMES

566. There is an urgent need to improve and extend the sewerage systems in Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur, Georgetown, Malacca and other major towns, especially in congested areas which are at present unsewered. This will help improve health conditions as well as the drainage systems in these areas.

57. A sum of \$12 million has been allocated for a sewerage scheme in Joh. The scheme is a comprehensive one, which will result in all houses within the central town area being seweraged. In Kuala Lumpur the sewerage system will be extended to the areas of Sentul and Setapak. A sum of \$2.2 million has been allocated to enable this project to be started. In addition, the sewerage purification facilities at Pantai will be considerably extended to deal with the increasing sewage flows from Kuala Lumpur. The cost of this project is estimated at \$3.9 million. The Plan also provides for the extension of sewerage facilities in Georgetown at a cost of \$2.5 million. At present the sewerage system serves about 60% of the population in Georgetown and this improvement will help in meeting the objective to sewer the whole town. In Malacca town the recent report on the outbreak of cholera confirms the danger of bad sanitation and the need, among other things, for a proper sewerage system. A sum of \$1 million has thus been provided for improving sewerage in Malacca town.

7.—FIRE SERVICES

58. Most of the country has an adequate coverage of fire protection services and under the Plan this will be further improved by the construction of new fire stations and accommodation for firemen at a total cost of about \$4 million. A new Central Fire Training School will be built at a cost of about \$0.6 million to meet the increasing demands for training in fire protection as well as in fire prevention and research.

8.—CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS

59. In Malaysia about 60% of the population is under 25 years of age. The government will seek to provide every facility to help youths to become productive and self-reliant members of society. The culture, youth and sports programme is intended to encourage and develop youth activities designed to foster creative thinking, interest in arts and culture, community co-operation and youth leadership. Through recreational, cultural and sports activities Malaysian youths will be helped to develop healthy bodies and minds. A sum of \$3.3 million has been provided in the Plan for the construction of 12 multi-purpose centres at state level throughout Malaysia. These centres will provide facilities for training courses in leadership, instruction and coaching in sports and cultural activities such as music, dances, dramatics, arts and crafts. In addition, \$1.0 million has been allocated for the provision of other recreational and cultural facilities.

60. The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports has also been provided with \$8.1 million to organise a youth corps, as discussed in Chapter V.

VI. OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES

571. In addition to the programmes described above, a total of \$55.5 million has been provided in the Plan for other community service projects in Malaya. Of this, at least \$25 million will be expended on projects in the rural areas. These projects will include the improvement of drainage, provision of markets, rural paths, small water supply schemes, dams, halting sheds, jetties, community centres and playing fields. These amenities, though small in themselves, will improve local living conditions and give the rural people a sense of participation and a share in the fruits of the country's progress.

572. In Sabah and Sarawak provisions of \$8.3 million and \$11.0 million respectively have been made. In Sabah the sewerage systems in Sandakan, Jesselton, Tawau and other towns will be extended.

573. The provision for Sarawak will be used for town and commercial development and small rural development projects. Bazaars will be constructed in villages and in areas which have recently been opened up as a result of expanding road communications.

574. In addition to paying particular attention to the needs of the rural areas, government will continue with its efforts to cater for the special requirements of those who need social welfare services and the aborigines.

VII.—WELFARE SERVICES

575. During the period 1961-65 a total of \$5.8 million was expended in Malaya and \$0.1 million in Sarawak for welfare services. Among the major projects completed in Malaya were a Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped, an Old Persons Home, a Remand Home, three Children's Homes and one Women and Girls' Protection Home. Another Remand Home and a Women and Girls' Protection Home are under construction and will be completed in early 1966. Expenditure for welfare services during the next five years will amount to \$8.7 million in Malaya, \$0.4 million in Sabah and \$0.7 million in Sarawak, making a total of \$9.8 million or about 66% more than the expenditure in the last five years. The programmes will include provision for custodial and rehabilitation services for the handicapped to enable them to become useful and self-supporting members of society. Attention will also be given to the amelioration of distress, custodial care of orphaned children and the provision of reformatory services for juvenile delinquents. The overall programme will provide additional Old Persons Homes, Children's Homes, Homes for the Handicapped, Women and Girls' Protection Homes and reformatory institutions in Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak.

VIII.—ABORIGINES

576. During the next five years the government will continue with its efforts to integrate the aborigines into the main stream of social and economic life.

577. Over the past five years, \$2.5 million was provided for projects to assist the aborigines. These were primarily devoted to creating the necessary health and educational facilities through the provision of medical posts and schools. While continued efforts will be made under the First Malaysia Plan further to improve and expand such health and educational facilities, more will be done to assist the aborigines to become economically more productive and progressive. The programme in the next five years therefore will emphasize agricultural development to raise the living standard of those aborigines who have adopted a settled form of agricultural livelihood. This group constitutes between 30% and 40% of the total population of 50,000 aborigines in Malaya. It is hoped also that through such improvement in the well-being of the settled aborigines, other aborigines will be induced to change to a more settled way of life. A provision of \$3.8 million has been made in the Plan for all these purposes.

578. The allocations for Social and Community Services under the First Malaysia Plan are shown in Table 13-1.

TABLE 13-1

MALAYSIA: DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE FOR SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, 1966-70

(\$ millions)

	<i>Malaya</i>	<i>Sabah</i>	<i>Sarawak</i>	<i>Malaysia</i>
Housing—				
Low-cost and other housing	150.0	5.0	7.5	162.5
Government housing	23.2	2.4	—	25.6
Major sewerage schemes*	21.6	—	—	21.6
Fire services	4.6	—	—	4.6
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports ...	11.6	0.4	0.4	12.4
Community services*	55.5	8.3	11.0	74.8
Welfare services	8.7	0.4	0.7	9.8
Aborigines	3.8	—	—	3.8
	279.0	16.5	19.6	315.1
TOTAL ...				

* Expenditure for other sewerage schemes is included under the provision for "Community Services".