

FOREWORD

Malaysia's development efforts which acquired new dimensions and meaning with the inauguration of the New Economic Policy in 1970, owe their origin to the vision and dynamic leadership of our beloved late Prime Minister, Tun Haji Abdul Razak bin Datuk Hussein. His commitment to the cause of bringing to reality the goals and aspirations of all Malaysians for unity, peace and progress was total. So complete was this commitment that one of his last wishes was to be able to present personally to Parliament and the people the Third Malaysia Plan—the second phase in the implementation of the New Economic Policy. But he was taken away from us before he could fulfil this wish. Fully cognizant of the heavy responsibilities he had carried and the immense sacrifices he had made for all of us, I ask for your full co-operation and support in carrying forward the monumental task which Tun Razak began. To him, we dedicate this Plan—the underlying strategy of which is the heritage he had left us.

The Plan is a bold, imaginative and positive effort to meet the socio-economic and political challenges of our time. It is the biggest ever undertaken by the Government for all our people. Designed specifically to consolidate the foundations already laid and the achievements attained to strengthen the unity and well-being of our people, the Plan is an action-oriented agenda of policies, programmes and projects to spearhead further progress towards the building of a united, secure, socially just and resilient nation as envisioned in the *Rukunegara* within the time frame of the present generation.

My Cabinet colleagues and I have personally directed the preparation of the Plan up to its final stages. It is a comprehensive Plan which has been painstakingly formulated to take full cognizance of the socio-economic needs of our multi-racial people, the political realities of our time and the security threat confronting us.

A major assault on poverty, a vigorous and continuous effort in the task of restructuring society as well as the strengthening of our national security, are the triple thrusts of the Third Malaysia Plan. Our targets for the eradication of poverty and the reduction of economic imbalances among the various States of Malaysia have, for the first time, been given explicit form. Our preparedness to bind this Government to the realization of these social-engineering objectives demonstrates our will and determination to push ahead vigorously to fulfil the goals, policies and commitments embodied in the New Economic Policy.

To be sure, Malaysia is in a strong position to make greater progress in the attainment of these objectives. Our past achievements have gained for us an economy whose foundations are secure. The international economic outlook is such that in combination with our own efforts, the momentum of

Malaysia's development will be accelerated. The challenge is to utilize the resources generated by such economic development for the purpose of accelerating the socio-economic transformation of our society.

In this transformation, we seek an economic order in which the well-being of Malaysians of all races, from all walks of life and in all regions of the country will be enhanced. We seek an economic order in which all Malaysians will have the fullest opportunity to utilize their individual talents to their benefit and in so doing, contribute to the national good. Above all, we seek an economic order within a democratic system in which the opportunity for self-fulfilment will be guaranteed for all who are prepared to make the effort.

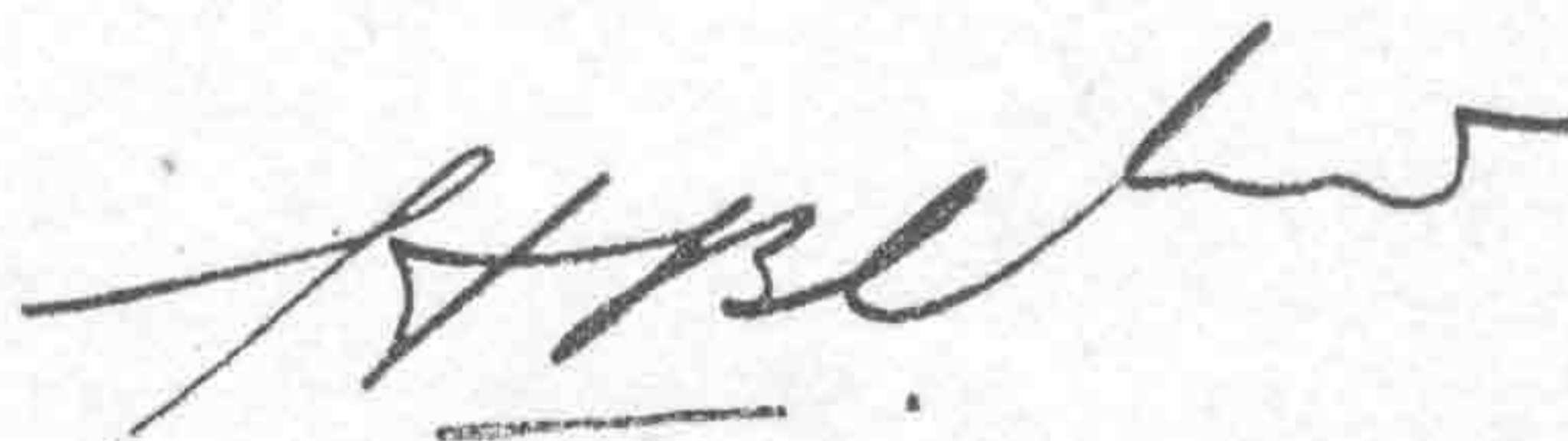
It is the paramount objective of my Administration to ensure that the goals we have set ourselves in the Third Malaysia Plan find concrete expression in the policies, programmes and projects which will be implemented at the grassroots level. Plans are only as good as the paper on which they are written until they are translated into action on the ground. We will be watchful over inconsistencies of interpretation and implementation of our policies and strategies which lead to a deviation of our efforts from the basic thrusts of the New Economic Policy and the *Rukunegara*. We will be mindful of the need for continuous evaluation of the Government's organizational and administrative machinery to ensure that such modifications as are necessary will be effected for the purpose of optimizing the benefits of the Plan for all Malaysians, but especially for those who are poor. We will ensure that the talents and energies of our multi-racial people are mobilized for the tasks of development.

The private sector has a crucial role to play in the attainment of the nation's socio-economic goals. The active participation of the Malaysian business community, in combination with foreign private enterprise in the history of Malaysia's economic development, is indicative of the invaluable contributions that the private sector, in partnership with the Government, can make to the nation's progress. The Government is fully appreciative of the need to maintain a sound and favourable investment climate as an essential prerequisite to the existence of dynamic entrepreneurship. The Government will ensure that the design and implementation of its policies and programmes conduce towards the fuller utilization of the great potential that exists in private initiative and enterprise for the socio-economic development of the country.

The recurrence of militant communism and subversion by anti-national elements poses a major challenge to our democratic way of life and the timely achievement of national goals. Given that the Plan manifests the commitment of the Government to ensure national security, the active participation of the people in the Plan for nation building provides the essential assurance that these threats will be overcome. Our principal strength lies in the fact that this war against the enemies of the nation is a people's war.

By the end of the Plan period, Malaysia will have reached the half-way mark in the time set for the implementation of the New Economic Policy. It is imperative that there be a new sense of urgency, integrity of purpose and dedication in the country to ensure the timely delivery of the fruits of development to the people, particularly the poor. We cannot afford to be complacent in this regard. With the richness of our national assets—our people of all races themselves as well as our endowment of natural resources—there can be no excuse for less than meaningful and sustained progress in the quest for development with social justice. The Government will carry out its responsibilities to the full. The response of all Malaysians must prove equal to the task. *There can be no substitute for hard work and a determination to succeed.*

In presenting the Third Malaysia Plan to Parliament for approval and adoption, I would like to take this opportunity to place on record the deep appreciation of the Government for the assistance received and the views expressed by all concerned in the preparation of this Plan. The suggestions made by political parties, private sector organizations and the public as a whole have greatly facilitated the formulation of strategies, programmes and projects for implementation in the next few years. This Plan has also benefitted substantially from the contributions made by international organizations, such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations and its specialized agencies as well as our local universities through their professional and expert assistance on a number of technical subjects.



(DATUK HUSSEIN ONN),
Prime Minister, Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR,
5th July, 1976