

SPEECH BY THE HON'BLE ENCHE D.C. STEWART
AT THE PRESENTATION OF CATTLE AND GOATS
AT THE VETERINARY DEPARTMENT, BALIK
PULAU ON 16TH SEPTEMBER, 1971

I am very pleased to be with you this morning to hand over 6 buffaloes, 8 cows and 15 goats which are provided by the State under the Second Malaysia Rural Development Plan.

2. You are well aware that buffaloes, cattle and goats are very important for the economic development of the State. These animals are usually used for ploughing the padi fields and pulling carts. They also provide vitaminous food such as meat and milk. They form a basis of additional income to the farmers and so the breeding of cows, buffaloes and goats is very much encouraged.

3. In order to encourage further the breeding of cattle, the Government has started a cattle loan scheme. In the First Malaysia Plan in Penang, 3 buffaloes, 14 cows were distributed. The farmers seem to agree with this Scheme and therefore it is repeated this year. This Scheme is very important to Penang because we have to import cattle from Kedah and Thailand for our supply of meat. For the sake of our own interest and benefit, the breeding of cattle should be given preference.

4. The successful breeding of cattle usually depends upon proper feeding and care. The cattle must be sufficiently fed with grass daily so that they grow up rapidly and their weights too also increase. The cattle which get proper attention and care always develop fast. If you have vacant lands around your houses, I suggest that you plant the best type of grass for feeding your cattle. The Veterinary Department or the Agricultural Department is always ready to advise you on the type of grass you can grow.

5. Penang has been importing goats whose mutton has become top priority to the populace for quite a considerable period. Due to the lack of proper grass fields the breeding of goats in fences is very much encouraged. Candidates who are getting the goats should plant grass as an additional food item for the goats.

6. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the farmers who are getting the cattle this morning and I say "Selamat berjaya" to you. The Veterinary Department is always ready to give you whatever assistance you need, be it in the form of treatment or advice. Please therefore get in touch with the department at any time.

7. Before I conclude, I would like to say a few words about the anti-litter campaign which is in operation in the City of George Town. As you are aware, the Anti-litter Law has been in force for some months now in the City and we are very happy to say that the public have responded very well indeed to our appeal to keep the City clean. There is very little litter to be seen in the streets of George Town and proper use has been made of the dustbins provided for the disposal of refuse. This has contributed a great deal to the health of our people and tourists from abroad have remarked on the cleanliness of our streets and beauty of our City.

8. In this connection, I would like to appeal to the people of Balik Pulau District and also those in other rural areas of Penang to follow the fine example set by our citizens in George Town and to do your best to keep your district clean and tidy. I know the people of Balik Pulau District are well known for their civic-consciousness and public spirit and will co-operate with the Government in any campaign to keep our State clean and thereby safeguard the health of our own people.