

ULU KELANTAN "GIFT" VILLAGE.

Cameraman: Amir bin Shamsuddin. Footage: 350.

This is not a complete story by itself. It is a continuation of the film "Moving Into a New Village" which we sent on January 5th showing a Malay village being moved by raft down the river, and this item should only be used in that connection.

It is 2 months since the settlers landed on the new 19-acre piece of land which the Government converted from jungle and allotted to them. They have made rapid progress through combined efforts within this short period. Our film shows the result of their work and their normal daily life.

To express their appreciation of what the Government has done for them, they named this village "Pemberian" - meaning a gift.

Coverage:

Opening with shots of rafts and aerial view of new site taken from previous film.

- (a) Ext: General view of the raised houses in village.
- (b) C.U. of woman putting up a bamboo fence.
- (c) Woman drying padi (unhusked rice) by the side of house.
- (d) Husking padi by primitive method of pounding - ext.
- (e) Ext: Women in a group clearing undergrowth along river bank.
- (f) Man clears surrounding of house, using a "changkol".
- (g) Ext: Group of men cutting felled trees with motorised saw.
- (h) One of the attractive houses with designs interwoven in the walls made of bamboo.
- (i) People moving about in their daily activities. A few Home Guards can be seen.
- (j) Ext: Woman feeding her chicken.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT.The Brand New Village of Pemberian.

By community effort the people of the brand new village of Pemberian, high on the bank of the River Lebir in Ulu Kelantan, have achieved in two months what is normally accomplished in six. Two months ago these simple jungle folk made news with their five-day journey down river from their old kampongs deep in the Ulu to the site of their new home.

Each family was allocated a plot of land on the 19 acre site, which had been carved out of virgin jungle by Government, and within a short time of their arrival they began to move their homes and possessions from their rafts to their lots. The perimeter wire was completed and the Security Forces who had guarded the villagers on their journey and while they moved in were withdrawn. Now the villagers guard themselves, as they had been trained.

The whole community - men women and children - was divided into groups. One group of men did Home Guard duties, another cleared house plots, another began to build roads and dig drains. The women and children helped by clearing away the undergrowth and by fetching and carrying. And so, in rotation, all performed a different task as the days passed.

Perhaps the most striking thing in this village in which there is still much to do, is its neat and tidy appearance. It is the result of careful planning of the work which faced the villagers on arrival, coupled with their willing and energetic co-operation. Somehow the houses, built like thousands more in the Federation, look different, giving the impression that the people are doing their utmost to make what is hoped will be a model village, an ultra model village. It is obvious that the people are happy. Further evidence of their acceptance of the permanence of their move lies in the way they have picked out with coloured paints the patterns of the woven, split bamboo walls of their houses - a colourful splash against the sombre greens of the jungle which surrounds them. Some villagers who have wholly cleared their plots, have marked out paths in coloured pebbles and have already planted trees and flowers.

Trees, too, have been planted on the fringes of what is to be the padang - a site still only half-cleared, work having been concentrated on homes and roads - and the newly-completed community hall will one day be shaded by trees.

The villagers have already shot and wounded a Communist terrorist who was trying to get over the wire into the kampong. They are extra vigilant now in defence of their "hearths and homes".

A few days ago school was opened for the children in the community hall (a start is soon to be made on the school building). There the boys and girls sat in their newest clothes eagerly taking part in their very first lessons, and looking extra good while their photographs were taken for the record. A few hours later, school over, they were back in their ordinary clothes to help their elders, who were busy at their community tasks.

News of the success of this village has spread and many people several even from neighbouring kampongs, have asked if they can go and live there.

The pride the people of Pemberian feel in their new home, in the definite future which they themselves will create, is reflected in the way they talk about the work finished, and the work still to be done, the way they show visiting Government officers a newly-completed task.

They were among the first in the Federation to see the film made of their journey down river - a film which gained world-wide distribution - and these Ulu folk, many of whose ancestors came over the border from Pahang during the rebellion, have perhaps acquired a little sophistication in the knowledge that their exploits have been shown to people around the world.

They are, however, still appreciative of what Government has done for them, their gratitude being expressed in the name they have given their village - Pemberian (a gift).

Kuala Lumpur, March, 1955.