

Speech by the Honourable Chief Minister, Penang, at
the Anniversary Dinner of the Association of Justices
of the Peace, State of Penang, to be held at the
Edinburgh Room, Hotel Merlin, on Saturday, 12th June,
1976, at 8.00 p.m.

Your Excellency the Governor, Tun Datuk Haji Sardon bin Haji
Jubir and Yang Mulia Toh Puan Datin Sadiyah,
The President and Members of the Association of Justices of
the Peace, State of Penang,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am privileged to be given the opportunity of replying
on behalf of the guests present at this Annual Dinner to celebrate
the 13th Anniversary of the Justices of the Peace Association,
State of Penang.

2. First of all, I would like to thank your President and
Members for your warm hospitality which enables all of us to
renew once again our acquaintances with the Justices of the Peace
in Penang.

3. We are very happy that Your Excellency the Governor and

Yang Mulia Toh Puan Datin Sadiah have spared some of your valuable time to grace this occasion. Your presence here this evening will be an encouragement to our Justices of the Peace to strive to do even more in the performance of their duties for the welfare and happiness of our people and the progress of the State of Penang.

4. I have on previous occasions stated that Justices of the Peace have performed valuable public services. They have in many ways assisted the Government in explaining various policies to the general public and helping them in their difficulties. This is certainly most important as the public must be aware of what is being done by the Government to promote their interests and welfare.

5. In Malaysia today, peace and harmony are of paramount importance in a multi-racial society like ours and, since your Association consists of members from all communities and all stations in life, it is therefore ideally suited for the task of welding together the different elements in our plural society into

a united and harmonious Malaysian society.

6. Our Government is faced with the task of creating a united, just and progressive society. We have to forge a Malaysian identity which is consonant with the aspirations of our people and the needs of the nation as a whole.

7. As Justices of the Peace, you are important leaders of our community and it is your duty to set the tune and pace for the social development of our country. By your qualities of leadership and integrity, you can inspire our community to actively live by the tenets of the Rukunegara. Those of you who are younger and eligible for membership in the Rukun Tetangga should actively participate in the activities of the Rukun Tetangga Scheme which was established by our late and beloved Prime Minister, Tun Haji Abdul Razak. This Scheme will enable our people to contribute their share towards maintaining peace, goodwill and security in their own neighbourhood thereby assisting the police and security forces who have to look

after the overall security of the nation and to combat anti-national and subversive elements in the jungles as well as in rural and urban areas. The late Tun Haji Abdul Razak considered that all public spirited citizens of Malaysia had an important role to play in safeguarding their homes and in promoting goodwill and cooperation among neighbours as well as rendering assistance to one another in times of emergency. This would enable us to develop a strongly self-reliant society.

8. In the context of our community's needs, Members of the Justices of the Peace Association can assist the people in the explanation of new laws promulgated by the Government from time to time. Our people need help and impartial advice when they sometimes have to contend with a complex number of Government Departments and Statutory Bodies.

9. In our State of Penang, we are going through rapid social and economic changes with emphasis on rural industrialisation and

rural urbanisation in conjunction with our urban renewal programme. The fundamental policy of the Government is to create a strongly united Malaysian society which is happier and more prosperous and in which every citizen will enjoy an equitable share of the nation's wealth. Our strategy will be to eradicate poverty and to restructure society as laid down in the New Economic Policy.

10. The First and Second Malaysia Plans have laid the groundwork for further development in the social economic and industrial fields and millions of dollars are earmarked in the Third Malaysia Plan for the further uptake in the country's development in the agricultural and economic sectors with emphasis on those States which require greater assistance.

11. I hope this occasion tonight will make everyone of us resolve that we must work even harder together. I am sure that if we do so we can surmount all difficulties and truly consolidate our unity as an integral part of the national unity that we seek to

serve and build. Only thus can we ensure our status and the Malaysian identity that we must create to achieve our objectives of a fair and just Malaysian society.

12. I would like to conclude by extending my congratulations to the President and Members of the Association of Justices of the Peace, Penang, on this happy occasion of your Anniversary celebrations. To Your Excellency the Governor, Penang, and Yang Mulia Toh Puan Datin Sadiah and to all present, may I invite you to rise and join me in drinking a Toast to the Association.

Thank you.