

SPEECH BY THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF MINISTER AT THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL WELFARE
COUNCIL, MALAYA PENANG STATE BRANCH, 29TH APRIL,
1970 AT 5.00 P.M. AT THE CIVICS CENTRE, FARQUHAR
STREET, PENANG

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I wish to thank your Chairman and members for inviting me once again to address you on the occasion of the Fourth Annual General Meeting of your Council.

2. This is the third occasion I have been invited to address the Council in my capacity as Patron. It gives me an opportunity to meet the members and also to comment on the activities of your Council.

3. Your Council has been kindly supplying me with the minutes of the meetings of your Executive Committee and I have been happy to note that in the past 12 months you have continued to maintain the same active programme to serve the needy and under-privileged as in the past few years.

4. I am pleased to see that in connection with this year's Annual General Meeting you have prepared a series of charts and photographs to highlight the activities of your Council. This is a project that

can be expanded into an annual "Welfare Expo" in conjunction with the State Welfare Department and other welfare and charity organisations. It can be supplemented by organising sales of various handicrafts and goods made by the various organisations.

5. In my previous talks to your Council I have emphasised the need for greater co-ordination and combined efforts by all charitable and welfare organisations in the State. I am therefore pleased to hear that your President shares this view. The State Government has increased its allocation for welfare from \$235,000 to \$300,000 in 1971 because we are of the view that the work by voluntary organisations must be supplemented by State efforts as adequately as is permitted by the financial resources of the State.

6. What is of paramount importance however, is, that monies devoted to welfare be spent efficiently both in the quantitative

and qualitative sense. It also means that duplication, over-lapping, inefficient management must all be eradicated. There must be developed a comprehensive approach to welfare work that will hit at the crucial areas that need attention, that will prevent the frittering away of the energy and resources of the community.

7. I would support the setting up of a combined "Welfare Task Force" in Penang which will involve all organisations and which will spearhead and co-ordinate welfare activities in the State. Regular meetings and seminars, joint exhibitions, fund-raising campaigns and disbursements of funds can then be carried out in a systematic and planned fashion.

8. I am confident that the Central Welfare Council is capable of providing the initiative and leadership towards such a move and I am also confident that the State Welfare Department will give its support.

9. The task of social and economic development in the State calls for imagination, vigour and hard work by all our citizens. At the same time the Society that neglects its handicapped, its weak and its underprivileged cannot claim itself to be a civilised society.

10. We are fortunate that in Penang we have an alert and civic conscious community and I wish to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to all those persons who have given voluntary welfare services in the State. I am confident that in the years ahead we will continue to have more and more of our citizens taking an active part in such affairs to make Penang a more happy and more progressive State for all its citizens.

11. I wish to take this opportunity of wishing your Council every success in the coming year.

Thank you.