

SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER, PENANG, AT
THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S BIRTHDAY ON 16TH JULY, 1976.

Your Excellency the Governor, Penang, Tun Datuk Haji Sardon bin
Haji Jubir and Yang Mulia Toh Puan Datin Saadiah,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasant duty to convey to Your Excellency
and to Yang Mulia Toh Puan Datin Saadiah the best wishes and
heartiest congratulations of the people of Penang on this happy
occasion of Your Excellency's Second Official Birthday. I would
like to take this opportunity to express the fervent prayer from
the citizens of our State that God Almighty will continue to bless
Your Excellency and Toh Puan Datin Saadiah with many years of
good health and happiness. May I also on behalf of the State
Government and the people of Penang extend our deepest congra-
tulations to Your Excellency on being conferred the award of Seri
Maharaja Mangku Negara by His Majesty the Yang Di Pertuan Agung
at the recent Birthday Honours List.

2. During the short period of Your Excellency's administration of the State of Penang, it has become evident that, under your wise and benign guidance, the State has been able to preserve and to sustain the spirit of goodwill, harmony and understanding among the citizens of our multi-racial society. The peace and tranquility that we have enjoyed have enabled us to embark upon plans of development which will bring greater employment opportunities for our citizens by expanding the economy of the State.

3. We are grateful to Your Excellency for your devoted service and the keen interest you have shown in the welfare of all our people. This is evident from the fact that you and Toh Puan Saadiah have visited all the districts in the State of Penang and seen for yourselves how the administration functioned and the livelihood of our people both in the rural and urban areas. We sincerely hope that Your Excellency will continue to guide us into

the future. It is our determination that the advancement and progress of our economy shall achieve a balanced growth both in the urban and rural sectors and that every part of the State, whether in the Province or on the Island, shall share in the benefits of our social and economic progress.

4. The Second Malaysia Plan has just been completed and much has been achieved in all fields of endeavour in accordance with our New Economic Policy. Throughout the State of Penang during the past five or six years, there has been an awakening and an upsurge of a new spirit of challenge and endeavour. The tempo of activity will increase when the Third Malaysia Plan for the next five years which has just been launched by the Honourable Prime Minister, Malaysia, Datuk Hussein Onn, is implemented and many social and economic projects will be carried out in the agricultural, commercial, industrial and construction sectors in order to eradicate poverty and to restructure our society to the best of our ability. Emphasis will be placed on promoting the

participation of our domestic private sector to help in the expansion of the social economic programmes within the Third Malaysia Plan.

5. The task is an enormous one and it is therefore essential that all sectors of our society must steadfastly support and cooperate with the Government to ensure that we shall achieve our objectives. We must be united in our struggle towards building national unity and a Malaysian identity of our own since we share a common destiny with one another as loyal citizens and as brother and sister Malaysians. We must be prepared to defend our nation against the anti-national and subversive elements who attempt to destroy the stability, peace and security of our people. To achieve the objectives of the Third Malaysia Plan our citizens must stalwartly defend the security of our nation. To this end the State Government will do all it can to promote and develop the capability of our citizens to uphold our security at all levels of livelihood.

6. I am happy to say that our people have supported the Rukun Tetangga Scheme launched by our late and beloved Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak, and the Community Relations Committees by their active participation and devotion to voluntary service which caters for their own welfare and happiness. I must also place on record the yeoman service given by civic organisations in our State to cater for the needs of the poor and the handicapped. The members of these organisations are doing good work to complement the efforts of the Government in the field of community development.

7. On this auspicious occasion, I wish to reaffirm to Your Excellency that my colleagues and I will work hard and, with your wise guidance, we shall spare no efforts towards maintaining goodwill and harmony among the various communities in the State. We shall endeavour to maintain the closest cooperation between the State and Federal Governments; to establish private sector participation in social economic projects; and to develop the will of the people to defend the peace and security of our State and the nation as a whole.

8. It is my pleasant task to convey to Your Excellency and to Yang Mulia Toh Puan Datin Saadiah our deep appreciation and intense admiration for the encouragement and staunch support which you have given to our voluntary, social and civic organisations. Your Excellency's keen interest and active participation in the functions of these organisations has inspired the members to strive harder for the welfare and happiness of the poor, the needy and the handicapped in our society.

9. Once again, in reaffirming our loyalty to Your Excellency, we express our fervent hope that God Almighty will keep Your Excellency and Yang Mulia Toh Puan Datin Saadiah in continued good health and happiness so that you will be able to guide our State and our citizens towards increasing progress and prosperity in the years that lie ahead.