

SPEECH BY THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, PENANG  
AT THE LAUNCHING OF 'PASAR SENI' PENANG AT  
THE YOUTH PARK ON 8TH. AUGUST 1976 AT 10.AM

Director of Culture, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports Malaysia,  
Chairman of Administrative Committee of Pasar Seni Penang,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Heads of Departments,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to attend this colourful ceremony to mark the launching of Pasar Seni, Pulau Pinang. This is a project which is organised by the Department of Culture, Youth and Sports in the State of Penang. This Pasar Seni is the second project of its kind to be organised in Malaysia by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. The first Pasar Seni has been established in Jalan Belanda, Kuala Lumpur since February 1975. I would like to thank the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports for having chosen Pulau Pinang as the second site to establish the Pasar Seni.

2. With the establishment of the Pasar Seni as a weekly event in our State, I hope that the State of Penang will be able

to play a more important role as a centre for the development and promotion of a truly Malaysian national culture. Apart from this objective of the Pasar Seni to promote our national culture, it will also be able to stimulate and encourage our citizens with special talents in the various media such as the graphic art, photography, handicraft, music, poetry and literature to find expressions for their natural capabilities.

3. The weekly holding of the Pasar Seni will further provide these talented and creative people in our community with a greater opportunity to meet and to discuss and exchange their views and expressions in their own fields of artistic expressions. At the same time, they will be able to demonstrate their work at the Pasar Seni so that our citizens and visitors to the State of Penang will have the opportunity to appreciate what they are doing and also to contribute towards further development.

Naturally, we also hope that the development of such a centre in Penang will not only stimulate the further development of the

creative and artistic talent in our State but also in our neighbouring states and throughout the whole of Malaysia.

4. I have personally observed that, generally speaking, the artists in any community, those with an artistic bent in any community and in fact, also the reaction of the communities to the artists in our midst seem to fall into two basic categories. From the artist's point of view, there are those who reach out for expression as an individual form of development. Sometimes, the unbridled development of individual talent can become a little bit exhortative, with little relevance to the role of the artists in society, and even become too advanced. The tendency then would be for such artists to become 'long haired or peculiar special groups'. It is the reaction of the general public towards this group of artists to frequently assume an unnatural relationship. On the other hand, the second group whose life style are more truly relevant and pertinent with

the life style prevalent in the communities and their talents are directed much more clearly towards fulfilling the total aspirations and the need for community expression which the general public has but not able to express. The tendency then is for the community to be able to work together much more closely with this type of artistic development.

5. I hope that the Pasar Seni will not become a 'Woodstock' or a hippie gathering for the long-haired just to exhibit their long hair but that this Pasar Seni will develop a very strong community consciousness with a dedication to promote national unity through the expressions of the art.

6. The artists in any community are an important factor in developing a better quality of life for the community. For many years now, the State Government of Penang have been promoting and assisting those in our community with special talents in the artistic and creative fields. I hope that the establishment of Pasar Seni will give them a new avenue

for public expressions and exhibition.

7. I am confident that those who participate in the Pasar Seni are fully conscious of our role in developing national unity and integrating our multi-racial society with the objective of creating a Malaysian identity of our own through the arts. Then the Pasar Seni will become a successful and permanent feature in our way of life. The State of Penang has developed a truly national industrial sector and together with the increasing development of tourism in the State, our exhibitors at the Pasar Seni must be aware of the fact that the standard they strive for must also be competitive internationally. The record of achievements of our creative artists in the State makes me feel confident that not only will the exhibitors at the Pasar Seni contribute greatly towards the development of a national cultural expression which can unite our multi-racial society into a truly Malaysian society but the standard of achievement will also become internationally acceptable. I hope

that the participants as well as the supporters of Pasar Seni will keep to this objective of stimulating a creative and artistic field of endeavour in our State as well as to ensure that those who are so engaged will reach out for standards that are socially and internationally acceptable. I would like once again to thank and congratulate the Organising Committee for their **hard** work to make the Pasar Seni a success. Their choice of locating the Pasar Seni at the Youth Park enhances the development of the Youth **Park** into an area truly for the youth of the state for purposes of sport and cultural activities..

8. I now have great pleasure to declare the Pasar Seni officially open.