

SPEECH BY Y.A.B. KETUA MENTERI ON THE OCCASION OF THE
LAUNCHING OF THE WESTLANDS RUKUN TETANGGA SCHEME TO BE
HELD AT THE RUBBER TRADE ASSOCIATION BUILDING, ANSON
ROAD, ON 1ST JUNE, 1976 AT 6.15 P.M.

Pengerusi dan Ahli-Ahli Jawatankuasa Sektor Westlands,

Tuan-Tuan sekalian.

It gives me great pleasure to be present with you today on the occasion of the launching of the 4th Rukun Tetangga Sector in the State of Penang. I am glad to know that the members of the committee and the residents of this sector have been very cooperative ever since the registration of residents for this sector commenced. I have been informed by the Chairman that members of his committee have sacrificed a lot of their personal time to ensure that the registration exercise can be completed satisfactorily. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and members of the Westlands Sector for their hard work and sacrifice without which we would not be here

today for the official launching of this sector.

2. The Rukun Tetangga Scheme will give an opportunity for the residents not only to provide security for their own homes but also to enable them to understand one another better which will eventually lead to the creation of a more united and integrated society thus fulfilling the aims of the Rukunegara. It is common knowledge that in the past a great number of people who live within the same community have not had an opportunity to get to know who their neighbours are either because they have been too engrossed with their own affairs or they have been too selfish looking after themselves only and not wanting to know the problems and tribulations of other people in the same community which have contributed so much to their advancement. I feel the time has come that we cannot ignore the needs and requirements of our neighbours either in the context of providing mutual security or in providing social assistance to those in our community who are less fortunate than us.

3. I am sure that many of you are aware that there are anti-national and subversive elements amongst us who continuously try to destroy the democratic society which we have built up over the years since we achieved Merdeka. Our enemies are very subtle and elusive and unless the Government obtains the fullest co-operation of the people, we will find it very difficult to root them out and destroy them before they destroy us. These dangerous elements in our society are akin to a cancer which, if not detected early and eradicated, can cause untold harm to our society. We hope that through the organisation of the Rukun Tetangga Scheme and with the fullest cooperation of the people we shall be able to neutralize the efforts of these anti-national and subversive elements.

4. Many of us would think that the object of the Rukun Tetangga Scheme is meant to provide a self-protection for your own homes and property. Whilst this is correct on the whole

nevertheless apart from this factor of security, the Rukun Tetangga Movement can also organise social programmes for the benefit of the members of the community residing in the same sector. In this connection I would urge the Rukun Tetangga sector committee to coordinate such programmes with the Majlis Perhubungan Masyarakat and other social and civic organisations which have been established to carry out these activities.

5. These programmes can include social and financial **assistance** to those who are less fortunate, educational assistance for children in the lower income groups, sports programmes for those who are unable to obtain these services provided by Government because of one reason or another and also general assistance to those in the community who are unfortunately affected by disasters, for example, fires, floods etc. If such programmes are implemented successfully I have no doubt that the result will lead us to a better understanding of our neighbours

and friends, and to the creation of a united society in the spirit of the Rukunegara.

6. The Rukun Tetangga which is practised in the spirit of good neighbourliness enables local residents, among other things:

- (i) to cultivate goodwill among neighbours and mutually safeguarding their lives and properties;
- (ii) to endeavour together to save the coming generation from social evils;
- (iii) to join forces towards a good cause;
- (iv) to cooperate in efforts towards the welfare of the society;
- (v) to help one another during a disaster or in an emergency.

7. I have been told that the sector committee of Westlands had taken great pains to plan such activities for the benefit of the community in the sector. I would like to congratulate them

on their efforts but I hope that the members of the committee will always bear in mind that in the performance of their duties they will exercise the spirit of goodwill, discretion and flexibility in their actions. These three basic principles should also be adopted by every sector committee of the Rukun Tetangga. I would like to urge the residents of the sector to give their fullest cooperation to the sector committee so that the objective of building up a united and happy society may be achieved. With these words, I would like to wish you every success in your endeavours and I have great pleasure to officially launch the Rukun Tetangga Scheme in the Westlands Sector.