

SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE DR. LIM CHONG EU, CHIEF MINISTER,
PENANG, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF CHINESE MEDIUM
SCHOOL HEADMASTERS' COURSE (PENANG) ON 29TH OCTOBER, 1976
AT 9.15 A.M. AT DEWAN SRI PINANG

Mr. Chairman,
The Honourable State Secretary,
The Director of Information Department,
Senior Government Officers,
Ladies & Gentlemen:

I would like to thank the Information Department of Penang for giving me the opportunity to say a few words to you and to officially declare open the one-day Course which starts this morning.

2. From time to time Government holds Civic Courses of this nature but this particular Course is a special one because your group is a professional one specialising on education.

3. The objective of the Course is to enable you to get to know more about several current issues that are important

to our society today as well as to discuss them with the officers who will be speaking to you. I consider that the teachers form a very important sector of our local civic leadership and, therefore, it is essential that all of you should give equally important emphasis to know more about events happening outside the school as well as those pertaining to the schools in which you are working.

4. It is very necessary at this time of national development, particularly with the implementation of the Third Malaysia Plan, that all our civic leaders must concern themselves over the problems of national security, the threat of anti-national and subversive elements, particularly by the communists, and also become aware of the objectives and plans for National and State developments.

5. All of you are instilled with the spirit to build a united nation and to restructure our Malaysian society into an integrated progressive modern society with a character of

its own. As educators, your dedication to the tasks that fall within your usual scholastic activities is already well established. It is further necessary for you to understand that quite apart from providing the fundamental basis of education to the pupils under your care whilst at school you must also be able to assist them to play their role effectively in the society at large when they leave school.

6. Malaysia is a young nation; it is a developing nation. Therefore our hopes and our aspirations depend very much upon the younger generations who are at present under your care at school and who will develop to become the future leaders of our country. These young generations of Malaysians must be given proper guidance and direction so that they can develop a Malaysian way of life and also strive to improve upon the quality of life which we now enjoy. It must be our hope that what we do today will enable future generations of

Malaysians to have a better and happier life than what we enjoy at the present time.

7. It is necessary that the younger generation of Malaysians must develop a Malaysian identity of our own through the inter-play of the cultural patterns which they have inherited in a multi-racial society such as ours. The Malaysian society of the future will develop from the composite admixture of the best elements of our multi-linguistic and multi-ethnic cultural heritages. There should be no need for our youngsters to blindly ape all that hails from the western countries. They must be able to discriminate between what is good for them and what is not good for them.

8. A nation progresses through the process of acculturation. And whilst it is usual for us to bring into our own national way of life the best developments from other countries, East or West, nevertheless, this ability to discriminate what is

good for ourselves is essential for our own development. As teachers you can best inculcate this capability of healthy **discrimination** to our children.

9. Malaysian society is being established upon the tenets of the Rukunegara and the objectives of the New Economic Policy. The aim is to create a united Malaysia and a Malaysian society which is fair and just, where the peace and prosperity of the country must be maintained and shared by all Malaysians for the benefit of all Malaysians.

10. At this stage of our national development, the tasks confronting the Government, both at Federal and State levels, are to eradicate poverty in our midst, restructure our society by redressing economic imbalances; and to strengthen our will and determination to preserve the security of our nation. In essence, our objective is to reduce the social economic gaps between the "haves" and the "have-nots".

11. As educators, you will play an important role in this struggle to build national unity. During the time when our children are at school you must impart to them sufficient knowledge and understanding so that they can build up their character to become useful Malaysian citizens. They must be taught and guided to appreciate their individual potentials so that through the education that you have given to them they will become well-adapted and secure personalities within the community which they will join as citizens. The future of Malaysia depends upon the development of well-adapted, mature and confident individual citizens.

12. Today, even as the development programmes under the Third Malaysia Plan are being launched to bring about greater social economic upliftment of our nation and our State, our citizens must realise that our progress towards a modern progressive society is confronted by many problems such as drug-

abuse, delinquency, violence and subversion. I am sure all of you are aware of this.

13. Government has introduced the Rukun Tetangga Schemes to enable our citizens to organise themselves so that our society can become more self-reliant and develop the spirit of Berdikari in order to fend for ourselves as well as to guard ourselves from the threats by anti-national and communist elements.

14. We must understand that our enemies are always active and constantly seek to undermine our efforts. Likewise, it is essential that we must be constantly vigilant and we must never cease in our efforts to build up national unity and to restructure our society and develop it to become united, strong and resilient.

15. Community Relations Committees have also been established in our State to enable our citizens to come

together to discuss and to implement programmes by themselves for their own immediate local benefit. The tasks of the Rukun Tetangga and the Community Relations Committees in the urban areas are also being carried out by the Jawatankuasa Keselamatan dan Kemajuan Kampong. I am happy to inform you that in the State of Penang all these organisations are functioning well.

16. Furthermore, many of you I am sure are already members of the Jawatankuasa Muhibbah and although this organisation has been less active, nevertheless it is still maintained and we are indeed fortunate that the Jawatankuasa-Jawatankuasa Muhibbah do not have to be activated because we have been able to maintain peace in our society. However, we must always continue to foster the harmony that exists among our people through goodwill and understanding. Other important organisations which have been developed in our State and throughout the country include the organisation of the RELA to enable our

people to defend themselves and PEMADAM to combat drug abuse.

17. If all of you participate in these organisations, then the civilian development will enable our Security Forces, the Military and the Police, to more directly focus their efforts to control and eliminate our enemies. The Military Forces will be able to concentrate their full efforts to contain and to destroy the enemies who seek to break up our nation. The Police will be able to uproot the subversive and communist elements and counter their evil intentions to undermine our society. Thus our civilian society will be able to work together with the Security Forces to ensure our nation's security.

18. I have not gone into detail with my opening address to you because the details will be dealt with by the officers in their talks on different topics to you. However, I shall be willing to answer whatever questions you may raise later on.

19. It is now my pleasure to officially declare open this one-day Course and I hope that you will all benefit from it.