

Speech by the Honourable Chief Minister, Penang, at the
Launching of Rukun Tetangga Sector, Bridge Street II, at
Rukun Tetangga Post, Cecil Street, on Sunday, 18th July,
1976 at 10.30 a.m.

Encik Feisol bin Haji Hassan, Pemangku Pengarah Rukun Tetangga
Negeri, Pulau Pinang,
Ketua Polis, Pulau Pinang,
Pengerusi dan Ahli-Ahli Jawatankuasa Sektor Leboh Bridge II,
Tuan-tuan sekalian:

I would like to thank the Committee Members of the
Bridge Street Rukun Tetangga Sector II for having successfully
organised themselves to implement the scheme in their sector. I
am happy to be here with you today to launch the Rukun Tetangga
Bridge Street Sector.

2. It is important that all our citizens living in the
Rukun Tetangga sector should be registered to participate actively
in Rukun Tetangga and I am happy to note that this sector has been
actively engaged in duties right from the day of registration.
This demonstrates the willingness of the residents in the Bridge

Street Sector II to voluntarily participate in this important scheme to build a self-reliant community.

3. All of you know that the objective of the Rukun Tetangga Scheme is to enable the citizens living within any of the Rukun Tetangga sector to unite together and, through their cooperative efforts, build up self-reliance amongst themselves to safeguard the security, goodwill, harmony and peace in the area in which they live. This task is essential because as the country makes progress socially and economically to eradicate poverty as well as to restructure our society, our people must constantly be aware of the need to defend the security and peace of our country.

4. The security and peace of our community and the stability of our society are the basic foundations of our continued progress to achieve a better life for our people in accordance with the objectives of the New Economic Policy. The basis of our determination to preserve our own security is the people's will to

uphold and to defend the tenets of the Rukunegara on which national unity is founded.

5. The enthusiasm whereby the residents of Bridge Street Sector II of the Rukun Tetangga Scheme have shown since the registration took place encourages us to anticipate that the implementation of the scheme in your sector will be successful. As all of you know, in its essence, Rukun Tetangga aims to unite the efforts of every single individual citizen and resident in the area in the common task of preserving the peace and the security of the area in which they live. When our citizens are so united together and are organised under a proper scheme they will not only be able to build up the spirit of self-reliance but they will also be better able to cooperate with the security forces, in particular the Police, in maintaining the peace and happiness in their area.

6. The Police will, of course, continue to carry on their normal duties and functions in your area and at all times the Police

will be working closely with you to make sure that your work of making your area into a much more peaceful and free of crime area will be coordinated with the functions of the Police and of the security forces.

7. The objective as I have said, is to make the people self-reliant and proud of their civic duties of improving the way of life in your own area. There will be things that you can deal with yourselves but there may be times that you will need greater cooperation with the Police and with the Government.

8. I would like to take this opportunity to stress that insofar as the security and peace of our people are concerned, the Government will do everything it can to support our people in their efforts to be self-reliant. You can at any time directly contact the Chief Police Officer or my office should any problems arise which are beyond your own control. However, I am certain that you will find that if you steadfastly uphold this spirit of unity and

of cooperation amongst yourselves, many of the social problems such as petty theft, burglary, house-breaking and so on will be overcome.

9. Today, we are involved in a task to make our society a better society not only for ourselves but also for our children and future generations of Malaysians. We must begin now in a small way to do whatever we can to overcome the social problems that have been identified as detrimental to our society. All of you already know the problem of drug abuse and how terrible this problem can be because they will undermine the very structure of our society and they will destroy the happiness of the individuals who fall into drug abuse. It is time for our citizens to meet this problem directly. We know that our people must have a right to make a living but the difference between being a good citizen and a bad citizen is that a good citizen will never do anything to earn his livelihood through actions that can be harmful to

others. Similarly, in a good society the good citizens must organise themselves to protect themselves against those who seek to make a living by causing harm to other members of the society.

10. The principle of live and let live is understood but when one section of the society attempts to make a living through methods which can bring unhappiness, harm and even death to other members of the society then our citizens must work together to eliminate this type of social problem such as confronts us today through drug abuse. Through this simple action of Government together with the Rukun Tetangga Scheme, our citizens will not only be able to cultivate a closer relationship and understanding among themselves as neighbours with the objective of safeguarding their mutual interest but, as a result of this spirit of good neighbourliness, you will also be able to enjoy greater security and peace in your own area. In this way, the citizens serving in the Rukun Tetangga Scheme will assist the Police and the security forces in the tasks of preserving the security of our

society and of our nation.

11. With the implementation of the Rukun Tetangga in your area, your Committee Members will be able to cooperate more closely with other organisations that have been established such as the Community Relations Organisations, the Goodwill Committee and the RELA so that through this cooperation our people will be able to further enhance the general welfare of our people. In this way, by joining the Rukun Tetangga Scheme and by serving in it, you will be helping to build national unity and to achieve a fair and just society.

12. I hope that you will find your tasks interesting and I hope also that your Committee will be able to organise your activities in a manner that each one of you will be able to carry out your duties with the minimum amount of dislocation of your normal lives. If you do it well, then the rate of crime in your area should become less, and our citizens in your area will have

increasing confidence that they can be self-reliant and that they can play their part in preserving the security of our society and of our nation. I congratulate you for all the good work that you have so far done and I hope that the Rukun Tetangga Scheme once it is launched in your area will make the Bridge Street Sector II area a happier area and a more peaceful area to live in.

I now have great pleasure to officially launch the Rukun Tetangga Scheme Bridge Street Sector II.