

Speech by the Honourable Chief Minister, Penang,
at the Dinner by the State Government on the
occasion of the Official Visit of the Honourable
Prime Minister, Malaysia, to Penang, to be held
at the Rasa Sayang Hotel, Penang, on Saturday,
9th October, 1976 at 8.00 p.m.

The Honourable the Prime Minister and Yang Berbahagia
Datin Suhaila,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the State Government of Penang, I take
great pleasure in extending a very warm welcome to our Hon'ble
Prime Minister, Malaysia, and Yang Berbahagia Datin Suhaila to
the State of Penang.

2. We are extremely happy to have the Hon'ble Prime
Minister and Yang Berbahagia Datin Suhaila as the Guests of
Honour at our Dinner this evening.

3. Mr. Prime Minister, I can assure you that the State
Government in Penang will always give its fullest support to

the Central Government under your enlightened leadership.

The State Government will energetically promote the unity, peace and security in our State as well as in Malaysia.

4. Our objectives are clear. In its efforts to carry out programmes of economic and social development, the State Government is motivated by the spirit of promoting happiness and prosperity to all citizens irrespective of creed, race or class. We shall ensure that our resources are utilised for the benefit of all our citizens and more opportunities are created for them to earn a decent livelihood and to raise their standards of living. We are committed to develop and sustain a fair and just society in Penang.

5. Further, we are determined to do our best to advance the economy of Penang and to redress economic imbalances by promoting rural industrialisation, rural urbanisation, agro-horticultural extension and urban renewal programme. In

particular, we shall provide housing for the lower-income groups of our citizens at prices which they are able to afford. We shall coordinate the efforts of both the private and the public sectors to achieve maximum results in housing for our people. Thus, we aim to eradicate poverty amongst all the people in our State and to improve their quality of life.

6. We consider ourselves extremely fortunate that, as Prime Minister, you have clearly stated your intention to sustain the policies of your illustrious predecessor, the late Tun Razak, particularly with regard to maintaining close co-operation between the State and Federal Governments as well as to provide direct support from the Federal Government for projects in the State. We deem it an honour and challenge to serve under your leadership and guidance to achieve a better livelihood for all Malaysians, in particular for the people living in the State of Penang. On our part, we shall at all

times maintain close cooperation between the State and the Federal Governments for the continued progress of our nation.

7. The strength of Parliamentary democracy in Malaysia has been clearly manifested through the formation of the Barisan Nasional. The wide support given to Barisan Nasional by all sectors of the people throughout the country has enabled the Government to work more effectively for the welfare of our people and the progress of the nation. The close rapport that exists between the State and Federal Governments clearly demonstrates the strength and resilience of the Parliamentary process in our country. This is the motivating force which has enabled us to achieve greater progress and to preserve the unity, peace and stability in Malaysia.

8. I would like to assure you, Mr. Prime Minister, that the State Government shall always work closely with the Central Government under your esteemed leadership and to implement the

objectives of the Third Malaysia Plan which you launched in July, 1976. Mr. Prime Minister, we endorse and support your call to all Malaysians to fully commit themselves, in the spirit of the Rukunegara, to the building of a united, secure, socially just, progressive and resilient nation.

9. In Penang today, we can see examples of the close rapport between the Federal and State Governments in projects like the extension of the Bayan Lepas Airport, which will become operational at the end of 1977 and the Bridge linking the Island to the mainland, the design and engineering works of which will commence towards the end of November of this year by Howard, Needles Tammen and Bergendoff International Inc. (HNTB).

10. We cannot afford at this time of our national development to relax our vigilance and thus provide the anti-national and subversive forces in our midst with the opportunity to undermine the will of our people and our national unity.

It is thus essential that the third main objective of the Third Malaysia Plan, namely the emphasis on the need of the people to become fully involved in sustaining the security of the nation is vital and crucial to all of us. We must carefully measure the pace of implementation of the programmes initiated by the Third Malaysia Plan to ensure that they are initiated and sustained in a manner that can enhance our national unity and the continuing growth of a modern and progressive Malaysian nation.

11. I am confident that during your visit you will find that the people in Penang are constantly promoting goodwill, harmony and understanding towards one another and that they actively express a very strong determination to live and work together as brother and sister Malaysians sharing a common destiny. The people in our State fully sustain the spirit of national unity in accordance with the tenets of the Rukunegara.

The energetic implementation of the Rukun Tetangga Schemes in the urban areas and the Jawatankuasa Kemajuan dan Keselamatan Kampong in the rural areas clearly indicates that our citizens fully support the objectives of the Central Government to strengthen the people's determination and will to uphold national security. They will assist the security forces and the police in safeguarding the peace and stability of the areas in which they work and live by sustaining harmony and understanding among the residents in their neighbourhood and by developing the spirit of self-reliance in their community.

12. In Penang, there is a great potential not only for economic development but also for the promotion of the tourist industry. We hope to develop our scenic spots and beaches in a manner which will attract tourists from abroad and the ASEAN region and yet be compatible with the aspirations of our people to preserve the natural charm and beauty of the State.

13. The time has also come when we must coordinate our efforts and future planning on a regional basis so that all development can be correlated to better harness our natural resources and to direct development in a planned manner that will avoid duplication of effort and unnecessary waste of the materials and manpower available in our region. The increasing momentum of development taking place in Penang and in our neighbouring States of Kedah, Perlis and Perak have made it necessary for our States to cooperate closely to achieve the growth and progress in our different States.

14. I hope that when you return to the Federal Capital, you will bring back with you happy memories of your visit here and further strengthen your own resolve to bring even greater benefits to the people of Malaysia as a whole. I assure you that our people in Penang have a warm regard for you and they are behind your leadership of the nation and they will always strive to

maintain the peace, unity and understanding which is fundamental to nation-building and which we all cherish so much.

15. Lastly, Mr. Prime Minister, I hope that, in spite of the heavy and tight programme of your visit, you will also have a few moments to enjoy the relaxing atmosphere of Penang and to appreciate the peace, tranquility and charm of our State.

16. We are confident that, under your wise and sound leadership as Prime Minister of Malaysia, you will bring about new changes for the greater benefits for all Malaysians irrespective of race, colour or creed. We look forward with keen interest to a new era of progress and happiness for our people under your leadership as Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Thank you.