

Speech by the Honourable Chief Minister, Penang, at
the St. George's Girls' School Annual Speech and
Prize Giving Day to be held on Tuesday, 26th October,
1976 at 9.00 a.m.

The Director of Education,
The Chairman and Members of the Board of Governors,
The Chairman and Members of the Parents/Teachers Association,
The Principal and Staff of the St. George's Girls' Secondary
School,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Pupils of the School:

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of
the Board of Governors and Headmistress for the honour they
have shown to me by their kind invitation to address the
school on the occasion of your Annual Speech and Prize Giving
Day. I am sure that everyone present here today is greatly
impressed by the performance of the St. George's Girls' School
as reported by the Headmistress in her speech just now. In
particular, the results of the LCE (96.03%), the MCE (96.07%)

and the HSC (80.67%) examinations in 1975 are excellent. I congratulate the staff and the pupils of **St. Georges** for the obvious hard work that they have put in to achieve these magnificent results.

2. It is even more interesting to note that your pupils have actively involved themselves in many extra-mural social projects to provide aid in cash and in kind as well as direct voluntary service to the handicapped, the poor and the needy in our society. Such activities for the general welfare of the community are extremely commendable. It is essential that our youth today must not only study the curricular subjects that are taught to them while at school but they must also be encouraged to develop the spirit of service to others.

3. It is proper that our children while still at school must make the fullest use of their time and energy to learn those subjects which are taught to them so that they can

better equip themselves for the tests of life which each and everyone of them will have to experience. The opportunities of having studied in a good school will enable them to obtain an educational discipline that will bring out the best qualities of the individual so that the individual pupil will grow up and find security and satisfaction in her lifetime. It is indeed still a great privilege to be a pupil of St. George's Girls' School, Penang.

4. Nevertheless, in the spirit of nation building, it is also necessary for individual pupils to learn to appreciate the needs and the characteristics of their friends, of members of their own family and of the society at large, so that they can meaningfully adjust their individual lives to serve the overall needs of the society in which they will work and live. This discipline of the individual, and the individual in relation to society, forms the basis of character building to which your

school apparently has given so much emphasis. It is this deeply rooted sense of civic consciousness which makes the St. George's Girls' School what it is today.

5. I understand that your school has been energetic in fund raising efforts to buy equipment and to provide financial aid for the needy pupils in the school. This directs the attention of individual pupils to community spirit at a very important formative age. I hope that the Parent /Teacher Association will continue to organise functions to get more parents interested in the welfare of the pupils as well as of the school as a whole. The guidance from the PTA as well as the instructions given to pupils by the teaching staff will help to mould the character of the pupils of the St. George's Girls' School to serve their interests in future years.

6. The St. George's Ex Pupils' Association through its activities of providing financial aid by way of the loan of

textbooks and payment of examination fees to needy pupils provides a greater sense of security and guidance to the pupils of this school. The activities of the St. George's Ex. Pupils' Association must be highly commended because this interaction between former pupils of the school with those at present in the school maintains a continuity in the high traditions that have been established by the St. George's Girls' School.

7. Today, more than ever before, there is a great need for us to emphasise the importance of educating our pupils to fit themselves into a fast changing world. The responsibilities of parents, the staff and the principal have become increasingly greater because of this great need to adequately equip our pupils for a meaningful life in the modern world.

8. If the younger generation of Malaysians will enjoy better and more fruitful lives than the older generation, it is

essential that they are taught to overcome the social constraints that they have to face either by adaptation or by a greater understanding of these constraints, or by providing them with sufficient knowledge to even modify these constraints in their own time. The basis of the conduct of our pupils, particularly those from the St. George's Girls' School in the future, must depend upon the character which they develop when still at school. They will be able to sustain a better quality of life in the future only if the foundations of a strong civic consciousness have been inculcated into them when they are still pupils at school.

9. No amount of knowledge, no amount of discipline that we provide our children is as important as the understanding and respect which they can develop through the love and care which the parents and the teachers provide them during the formative years at school. A child who is properly cared for

and who is never bereft of the love of parents will grow up to be a secure and well-adapted child.

10. It is at this time when the pupils are at school that many of the problems which confront us socially today can be resolved. A well-adapted and secure child will grow up to be a citizen who will have no problem in avoiding and even surmounting the dangers of drug-abuse, delinquency or other irresponsible social action. It is necessary for the teachers as well as the parents to understand that the best way whereby they can contribute towards resolving the problems of drug-abuse and delinquency and other social aberrations is to provide the child with a strong basis of character formation when still at school.

11. On the part of the pupils I hope that you will also respond to the love and care that is shown to you by your parents and your teachers. It is through this basic respect

between the children of the present generation to the elders that they themselves will grow up to be useful and responsible elders in their own time to provide the necessary leadership for future generations. I hope that the pupils of **St. Georges** will always remember that if you reciprocate the love and respect for your parents, that if you return the care which your teachers have given to you by maintaining the good name of your school, then I am sure that you will all be able to grow up to fulfill your responsibilities in the society in which you live.

12. The record of the school in the past year has been a very good one. I take this opportunity to congratulate all those who have done well in their studies and in particular those who have **won prizes on this occasion.** However, I must also congratulate all those who have been in the school during the same time because without your competition and your challenge the school would not have produced worthy prize-

winners nor would your school have achieved the record of such a high performance. To those of you who are preparing for your MCE and HSC examinations I hope that the record of performance of your predecessors will serve as an inspiration to you to do as well, if not better when you sit for these examinations. To those who will still remain at school, I hope that you will enjoy your time at school by making the best use of this time to learn from your teachers and your friends and thus prepare yourselves for the exciting life that lies ahead of you. At all times keep faith with your school and keep your school flag flying. I am sure that the traditions of the St. George's Girls' School will stand you in good stead and your activities will add to the further glory of the St. George's Girls' School.