

**SPEECH BY
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
AT WESTPORT 10th ANNIVERSARY EVENT AND OFFICIAL VISIT TO
WESTPORT AT WESTPORT, PELABUHAN KLANG
14 DECEMBER 2004**

ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH DAN SALAM SEJAHTERA,

YANG AMAT BERHORMAT
DATO' SERI DR. MOHD KHIR TOYO
MENTERI BESAR SELANGOR;

AHLI – AHLI YANG BERHORMAT;

YANG BERBAHAGIA
TAN SRI NIK IBRAHIM KAMIL
CHAIRMAN OF WESTPORT;

YANG BERBAHAGIA
TAN SRI DATUK G. GNANALINGAM
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF WESTPORT;

YANG TERHORMAT
BAPAK SUGIHARTO
MINISTER OF STATE ENTERPRISES,
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA;

YANG TERHORMAT
BAPAK FERDINAND NAIGOLAN
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR STATE ENTERPRISES,
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA;

DIF-DIF JEMPUTAN;

SAUDARA-SAUDARI YANG SAYA HORMATI SEKALIAN,

1. FIRSTLY, LET ME THANK THE WESTPORT FAMILY FOR INVITING ME TO THIS EVENT MARKING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF WESTPORT. I SHARE YOUR SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN BUILDING THIS HUB OF TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS. THE CREDIT FOR ALL THE ADVANCEMENTS ATTAINED, INCLUDING AN INCREASE OF HANDLING CAPACITY OF OVER 10 TIMES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, MUST GO TO TAN SRI GNANALINGAM AND THE WESTPORT FAMILY FOR SUSTAINED AND CONSIDERABLE EFFORT AS WELL AS COMMITMENT. I WOULD ALSO ADD THAT THE SUCCESS GENERATED BY WESTPORT HAS JOINTLY CONTRIBUTED IN IMPROVING THE ACCESSIBILITY, CAPACITY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF PORT KLANG. IN BECOMING THE 12TH LARGEST PORT IN THE WORLD AND IN HANDLING 7 TIMES MORE VOLUME THAN IT DID 10 YEARS AGO, ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN PORT KLANG HAVE ACHIEVED YET ANOTHER MAJOR MILESTONE. WE CELEBRATE THAT ACHIEVEMENT TODAY, AS WE CONTINUE TO

STRIVE TO MAKE MALAYSIA A STRATEGIC REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION HUB AND GLOBAL LOGISTICS FOCAL POINT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

2. IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT IN 1994, WESTPORT, AS WE NOW KNOW IT, DID NOT EXIST AND THAT THIS LAND AND THE AREA ALL AROUND US WAS COMPLETELY DEVOID OF DEVELOPMENT. AT THAT POINT IN TIME HOWEVER, WHAT DID EXIST WAS A CONSIDERABLE VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS AREA AND MORE BROADLY, FOR THE COUNTRY. A VISION THAT ANTICIPATED ESCALATING LOGISTICAL AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEMANDS MOVING IN PARALLEL WITH THE COUNTRY'S EXPANDING ECONOMY AND GROWING INTERNATIONAL TRADE. IT IS THIS VISION AND ITS SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION UNDER MALAYSIA'S PRIVATISATION PROGRAM THAT HAS RESULTED IN ALL THAT WESTPORT IS AND HAS TO OFFER TODAY.

3. HISTORICALLY SPEAKING, IN THE REGION THAT PRESENT DAY MALAYSIA OCCUPIES, THIS PART OF THE WORLD BECAME INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN MORE THAN 600 YEARS AGO AS A LOCUS OF SHIPPING LINES AND SEA TRADE. THAT MALAYSIA CONTINUES TO PUSH BOUNDARIES IN THE EXPANSION OF ITS ABILITY TO ACT AS A CENTER OF TRADE IS THEREFORE PART OF A LONG-STANDING TRADITION. WE KNOW THAT GLOBALISATION HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DIRECTLY AMPLIFY SHIPPING VOLUME ACROSS THE WORLD. WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT MALAYSIAN PORTS TAKE A STRONG LEAD IN REGIONAL REDISTRIBUTION AS WELL AS IN ASIA-EUROPE SHIPPING. MALAYSIAN PORTS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DEVISE AND DIRECT THEIR STRATEGIES TOWARDS THIS END. WE MUST ALSO COLLECTIVELY AND MEANINGFULLY ADDRESS ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF OUR SEAS.

4. IN TERMS OF OUR ENTIRE TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS NETWORK, THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGE THAT FACES US, AS A TRADING NATION, IS TO ENSURE THAT WE CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR NATIONAL MULTI-MODAL LINKAGES AND INTEGRATION. ALL STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED HAVE TO WORK TOWARDS REMOVING OBSTACLES AND INEFFICIENCIES AND TO ENSURE SEAMLESS AND RAPID TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS AND PROVISION OF SERVICES. VISION AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF MALAYSIA'S ROLE AS A REGIONAL HUB MUST BE NECESSARILY FLEXIBLE AND BE ABLE TO ADAPT TO UNCERTAINTIES AS WELL AS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND THE HORIZON. I BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTRY'S TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS INDUSTRY SHOULD BE BROADLY AND COMPREHENSIVELY DEFINED AND THEREFORE ABLE TO PROMOTE A WAVE OF ACTIVITIES TO AUGMENT THIS INDUSTRY FURTHER.

5. THIS APPROACH TO THE INDUSTRY IS INDISPENSABLE IF WE ARE TO INCREASE OUR COMPETITIVENESS ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE GROWTH AND EXPANSION OF CHINA AND INDIA. MALAYSIAN PORT OPERATORS, AS WELL AS STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS THE TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS INDUSTRY, HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT MALAYSIA INCREASES ITS OVERALL

COMPETITIVENESS. THE WAY FORWARD IN THIS INDUSTRY SHOULD BE CHARTED WITH A BROADER OVERVIEW OF POTENTIAL GLOBAL FUTURE TRENDS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF VALUE-ADDING COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES.

6. IN THIS REGARD, THE CORPORATE LEADERSHIP OF WESTPORT SHOULD ONCE AGAIN BEGIN TO DEVELOP A VISION FOR ANTICIPATING FUTURE TRENDS IN DEMAND FOR SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE. I UNDERSTAND THIS PROCESS HAS ALREADY STARTED STRATEGICALLY IN WESTPORT IN TERMS OF UPGRADING ITS WORKFORCE AND INCREASING THE UTILISATION OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.

7. IN ADDITION TO ITS VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COMPANY, I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT WESTPORT HAS TAKEN MANY INITIATIVES TO BEAUTIFY ITS SURROUNDING AREA AND I BELIEVE THAT IT IS THESE EFFORTS THAT HAVE LED WESTPORT TO BE COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE GARDEN PORT. FURTHERMORE, AN EXTENSION TO WESTPORT'S SCHEMES TO IMPROVE ITS PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT ARE ITS INITIATIVES TO FORGE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEARBY COMMUNITY OF PULAU INDAH. AMONG THESE, ARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INDUSTRIES SITUATED AROUND THE PORT WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CREATION OF NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

8. THE PROSPECTS FOR MALAYSIAN PORTS TO BE LEADERS IN TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS AND SERVE AS MEGA-TRANSSHIPMENT HUBS ARE QUITE APPARENT. I ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY AND REALISE YOUR FULL POTENTIAL. IN THIS REGARD AND AT THIS JUNCTURE, WHEN ALL OF YOU CAN REFLECT ON 10 YEARS OF STRONG PROGRESS, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FORGE AHEAD WITH A RENEWED SENSE OF PURPOSE ENABLING WESTPORT TO CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE GREATER LEVELS OF SUCCESS FOR ITSELF AND FOR THE COUNTRY. ON THAT NOTE, I WOULD LIKE TO ONCE AGAIN CONGRATULATE WESTPORT FOR ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE LAST DECADE AND WISH THE WESTPORT FAMILY A VERY HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY.

THANK YOU.