

**SPEECH BY
THE HONOURABLE ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA
AT CHANCERY BUILDING, BEIJING
29 MAY 2004**

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I AM INDEED VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE TO OFFICIATE AT THE FORMAL OPENING OF THIS NEW CHANCERY OF THE EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA IN BEIJING. I AM MOST HAPPY THAT THE PLANNERS AND THE BUILDERS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COLLABORATED TO ERECT A TRULY OUTSTANDING STRUCTURE. IT FEATURES MALAYSIAN CHARACTERISTICS AND ARCHITECTURE YET SERVING ITS PURPOSES, WHICH TO ENABLE THE BUILDING TO FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY AS AN EMBASSY.

2. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS BUILDING WILL BE A LANDMARK IN THIS AREA. IT WILL BE EASILY RECOGNISED AS THE MALAYSIAN EMBASSY.

3. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND WISMA PUTRA, THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND THE EMBASSY HERE IN BEIJING FOR A JOB WELL DONE AND FOR COMPLETING THE PROJECT ON SCHEDULE.

4. I HOPE THE THIS NEW PREMISE, TOGETHER WITH ALL THE NECESSARY MODERN FACILITIES THAT COME WITH IT, WILL INSPIRE ALL THOSE WORKING INSIDE THIS BUILDING TO SERVE WITH DEDICATION AND DELIVER QUALITY OUTPUT WITH MAXIMUN EFFICIENCY.

5. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA HAS GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO CONSTRUCT THIS BUILDING, THE ADJACENT RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX AS WELL AS THE NEW RESIDENCE FOR THE AMBASSADOR. I AM INFORMED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN READY FOR OCCUPATION SINCE LAST MONTH.

6. THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA DECIDED TO UPGRADE ITS DIPLOMATIC PREMISES IN BEIJING BECAUSE MALAYSIA ATTACHES A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE TO THE RELATIONS WITH CHINA, AN ANCIENT AND GREAT ASIAN NATION. IN THE LAST 30 YEARS, MALAYSIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CHINA HAS SOARED FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH IN MANY AREAS OF COOPERATION. IT IS NOW TRULLY MULTIDIMENSIONAL AND MULTIFACETED.

7. THE MARKED EXPANSION IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGES IN THE DOMESTIC AS WELL AS FOREIGN POLICIES OF BOTH MALAYSIA AND CHINA. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THERE HAVE BEEN RAPID IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE, GOODS AND SERVICES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THIS INDICATES ALSO THAT THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESSIVE AND VISIONARY LEADERSHIP ON BOTH SIDES.

8. AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE, BILATERAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION ARE EXPECTED TO INTENSIFY EVEN MORE. THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE NOW POISED TO ENHANCE RELATIONS AT ALL LEVELS AND IN ALL SECTORS OF THE SOCIETY.

9. APART FROM THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS BUILDING TO BE THE FLAGSHIP FOR FACILITATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND CHINA, THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA HAS, WITHIN THE LAST DECADE, OPENED UP SEVERAL CONSULATES GENERAL IN CHINA, NAMELY IN GUANGZHOU, SHANGHAI AND MORE RECENTLY, IN KUNMING. THIS IS APART FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG WHICH HAD BEEN THERE SINCE MANY YEARS AGO. ALL THESE ARE TESTIMONY TO MALAYSIA'S SERIOUSNESS AND DETERMINATION TO CONTINUALLY INCREASE ITS INTERACTIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, BOTH IN TERMS OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERACTIONS AS WELL AS IN TERMS OF THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD WITHIN CHINA.

10. ON THAT NOTE, I HEREBY DECLARE OFFICIALLY OPEN, THIS NEW EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA CHANCERY IN BEIJING !

THANK YOU.