

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
AT THE GLOBAL 2004 – LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE
AT LANGKAWI
29 JULY 2004**

"CHALLENGES TO DEVELOPMENT: ERADICATING THE HUMAN DIVIDE"

YOUR MAJESTY, KING MSWATI III

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS

EXCELLENCIES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

1. I AM HONOURED TO WELCOME YOU TO THIS GLOBAL 2004 – THE SEVENTH LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE. I DEEM IT MY GOOD FORTUNE TO HAVE WITH ME THIS LEGACY OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH THIS SPECIAL GATHERING EMBODIES. ALTHOUGH I AM NO STRANGER TO THE SMART PARTNERSHIP MOVEMENT, IT IS MY SPECIAL PRIVILEGE TO HOST THIS YEAR'S DIALOGUE; AND TO HIS MAJESTY KING MSWATI III, MAY I EXTEND MY HEARTFELT APPRECIATION FOR PERSONALLY FACILITATING THE DIALOGUE HANDOVER NOT TOO LONG AGO. I AM TOLD THAT HIS MAJESTY STAGED A MOST MEMORABLE AND IMPACTFUL DIALOGUE IN THE HILLS OF BEAUTIFUL EZULWINI. WHILE THIS COULD BE A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW, I SINCERELY HOPE THAT WE ARE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THE SAME MEASURE OF SUCCESS HERE IN LANGKAWI.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

2. IT IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IS THE MOST SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO DEVELOPMENT, PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY IN THE WORLD TODAY. TO BE DURABLE, THE PEACE WE SEEK MUST HAVE THE UNDERPINNINGS OF A SHARED FUTURE THAT IS BOTH FAIR AND EQUITABLE. AS LONG AS ALMOST HALF OF HUMANITY FACES DEPRIVATION AND INJUSTICE, WHILE THE OTHER HALF ENJOYS UNPRECEDENTED WEALTH GLOBALLY, PEACE AND SECURITY WILL BE HARD TO COME BY.

3. AS LEADERS, OUR DUTY IS TO SERVE, GOVERN, AND FULFIL THE NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLES. PEACE, PROSPERITY AND WELLBEING MUST RANK HIGH ON ANY LEADER'S TO-DO LIST. INDEED, I HAVE OPENLY PROFESSED MYSELF TO BE PUBLIC SERVANT NUMBER ONE, AND MY COLLEAGUES IN GOVERNMENT SHARE THIS COMMITMENT TO SERVE WITH ME.

4. IN THIS REGARD, A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE LAST THREE DECADES HAS BEEN THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE. BACK THEN THE RURAL POPULACE WAS SIGNIFICANT, AND WE SET OURSELVES THE TASK OF OVERCOMING POVERTY FROM THE ESTIMATED RATE OF 52 PERCENT IN 1970. THANKFULLY, MALAYSIA MANAGED TO BRING ITS POVERTY RATE DOWN TO 15 PERCENT BY 1990. WE DID THIS THROUGH A BOLD SOCIAL ENGINEERING APPROACH REFERRED TO AS THE 'NEW ECONOMIC POLICY' (N.E.P.). IN ORDER TO BECOME A UNITED, HARMONIOUS MALAYSIAN NATION, A BROAD-BASED NATIONAL EFFORT HAD TO BE PUT TOGETHER TO ERADICATE POVERTY AMONG ALL MALAYSIANS. THIS HAD TO BE DONE IN TANDEM WITH THE RESTRUCTURING OF SOCIETY THAT ELIMINATED THE IDENTIFICATION OF RACE WITH ECONOMIC FUNCTION.

5. SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES WERE ALSO DEVOTED TO THE PROVISION OF HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES. THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION TO ALL YOUNG MALAYSIANS, WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE NEEDY, RAISED OUR LITERACY STANDARDS; IN ADDITION, MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO QUALIFIED. MUCH EFFORT WAS DEVOTED TO PROMOTING CAPITAL-EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES, PROVIDING JOB TRAINING TO THE RURAL POPULATION, AND RESETTLING THE LANDLESS IN NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES. THE SETTING UP OF INDIGENOUS TRUST AGENCIES HELPED PAVE THE WAY FOR THE INDIGENOUS OR BUMIPUTERA PARTICIPATION IN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. BY 1990, WE HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS UNDER THE N.E.P..

6. FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS, UNDER THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY, THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR ADDRESSED THE OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING BALANCED SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH POVERTY WAS STILL A MAJOR CONCERN, IT WAS NO LONGER A PRINCIPAL IMPEDIMENT TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WHILE THE 'HARD CORE POOR' CONTINUED TO RECEIVE FOCUS AND ATTENTION, ADDITIONAL EFFORTS AT CREATING MORE BROAD-BASED EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN BUSINESS AND COMMERCE, THROUGH VARIOUS FINANCIAL SCHEMES, PROVED TO BE FRUITFUL. BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, POVERTY WAS REDUCED TO 5.5 PERCENT, WITH THE HARD-CORE POOR DOWN TO JUST OVER 1 PERCENT.

7. MALAYSIA IS NOW WORKING HARD TO CLIMB UP THE ECONOMIC VALUE CHAIN AND ENHANCE ITS COMPETITIVENESS. THE CONTINUITY OF ADMINISTRATION IN THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN KEY, WITH THE BARISAN NASIONAL OR NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT WINNING ELECTIONS SINCE EVEN BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. THROUGH CONSISTENT POLICIES, CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS AND RELENTLESS FOCUS, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BRING ABOUT DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCE EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING FOR OUR PEOPLE, AND CUT DOWN POVERTY RATES IN THE COUNTRY. INDEED, WE HAVE TARGETED TO FULLY ERADICATE ABSOLUTE POVERTY IN MALAYSIA WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, AND WILL DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO ACHIEVE THAT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

8. AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WE HAVE EITHER EXPERIENCED OR WITNESSED POVERTY FIRST HAND, AND IT IS THROUGH THIS EXPOSURE THAT OUR WORLDVIEW OF POVERTY TAKES ON MORE REALISTIC DIMENSIONS. WHENEVER WE USE A MONETARY MEASURE, SAY ONE U.S. DOLLAR A DAY TO HIGHLIGHT THOSE LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE, WE ARE PERPETUATING A DEFINITION OF POVERTY THAT IS CLINICAL AND STERILE. WE RARELY EVEN ASK WHAT THIS SITUATION REALLY MEANS TO A POOR PERSON. AFTER ALL, THE U.S. DOLLAR IS TRANSACTED DIFFERENTLY IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, AND YET WE DO NOT EVEN ASK, WHAT DOES ONE U.S. DOLLAR BUY IN SUDAN AS OPPOSED TO INDIA?. WE RATIONALISE THAT THIS LACK OF ADEQUATE MONEY HAS TO DO WITH THE INDIVIDUAL'S INNATE INABILITY OR HIS RELUCTANCE TO FEND FOR HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY.

9. FOR A LONG TIME IT WAS EXPUNDED BY MAINSTREAM DEVELOPMENT ECONOMISTS THAT LACK OF PROGRESS AND RESULTANT POVERTY WERE ESSENTIALLY DUE TO GOVERNMENTS THAT WERE INCOMPETENT, CORRUPT AND DID NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO LEAD THEIR NATIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. AND PERHAPS FOR A LONG TIME TOO, WE IN THE THIRD WORLD LABOURED UNDER THIS ASSUMPTION, ALLOWING IT TO PLAY ITSELF OUT AS A SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY OF OUR OWN INHERENT INADEQUACIES. FOR A LONG TIME OUR SELF ESTEEM SUFFERED AND WE WERE UNABLE TO SEE THROUGH THESE EXTERNALLY IMPOSED PERCEPTIONS.

10. AS LONG AS WE DO NOT REALISE THAT POVERTY HAS MORE TO DO WITH DEPRIVATION THAN THE LACK OF MONEY, WE ARE NOT TAKING THE BULL BY THE HORNS. DEPRIVATION HAS TO DO WITH THE LACK OF ACCESS TO ADEQUATE FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER, EDUCATION AND OTHER ESSENTIALS OF A DECENT LIFE. THE RECENTLY ESPOUSED 'CAPABILITY VIEW OF POVERTY' REGARDS POVERTY AS A SHORTFALL IN HUMAN CAPABILITY – ENCOMPASSING THE LACK OF ABILITY TO LIVE A LONG LIFE, TO ENJOY GOOD HEALTH OR TO HAVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE. ANY POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY SHOULD BE CONCERNED AT THE VERY LEAST WITH CAPACITY BUILDING IN THESE THREE BASIC AREAS. THE POWERLESSNESS THAT EMANATES FROM BEING EXCLUDED FROM QUALITY OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP CAPABILITIES IS CERTAINLY MORE RELEVANT THAN THE TRADITIONAL INCOME DEFICIENCY APPROACH. FOR INSTANCE, EDUCATIONAL DEPRIVATION WILL SEE FAR GREATER MARGINALISATION AND EXCLUSION OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE FROM THE MAINSTREAM KNOWLEDGE-BASED GLOBAL ECONOMY.

11. AND NOW, BARELY HAVING CROSSED INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM, A NEW SAGA HAS STARTED TO UNFOLD – A NEW FORM OF DISEQUILIBRIUM SEEN IN GLOBAL FEAR AND GLOBAL TERRORISM – ALL CONTRIBUTING TO THE FURTHER DECLINE OF THE HUMAN CONDITION. MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS, IN PARTICULAR BETWEEN ISLAM AND THE WEST, HAVE GROWN AND SHOWN LITTLE SIGN OF ABATING. POVERTY HAS BEEN MADE WORSE RATHER

THAN IMPROVED. THIS STANDS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE BOLD ARTICULATIONS OF POLITICAL AND CIVIL LEADERS ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE. THIS SAGA CONTINUES AS POOR NATIONS, ALREADY GRAPPLING WITH INEQUITABLE TRADE POLICIES, SPIRAL FURTHER DOWN INTO DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS OF POVERTY, SEEMINGLY WITH NO END IN SIGHT.

12. AND SO GLOBAL POVERTY TODAY CONTINUES TO HAUNT US, WHILE GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY IS THREATENED AT THE SAME TIME, ALL LEADING TO SCHISMS THAT ARE GROWING WIDER. THE W.T.O., A RATHER NEW MECHANISM THAT WAS MEANT TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD AND CREATE A MORE EQUITABLE TRADING GLOBE, HAS HAD A ROCKY START. GROWING BILATERALISM IS ONLY ONE INDICATION OF THE FALTERING ATTEMPTS AT MULTILATERALISM. EACH W.T.O. ENCOUNTER TURNS OUT TO BE AN EVENT FOR REGIONAL CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN DIFFERENT BLOCS. PROGRESS AT MULTILATERALISM HAS THUS BEEN SLOW AND UNEVEN. IT APPEARS THAT EACH MEETING OF THE W.T.O. CONTINUES TO SHOW ADVERSARIAL POSTURES BETWEEN THE HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS, WITH POWERFUL NATIONS CLEARLY PLAYING THE ROLE OF SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF BIG BUSINESS.

13. DEVELOPING NATIONS SHARE A COMMON VULNERABILITY TO THE ONSLAUGHT OF GLOBALISATION, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, THE SPREAD OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND TERRORISM IN ALL FORMS. FOR MANY OF US, 'PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TO MEN' MAY REMAIN ELUSIVE. BUT WE CERTAINLY CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO BE THE CASE, AND MUST CONTINUE TO WORK DILIGENTLY AND DELIVER GOOD GOVERNANCE TO SECURE PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN THE WORLD.

14. TERRORISM IS NOT A NEW PHENOMENON AND HISTORY IS REplete WITH EXAMPLES OF TERROR, CLEARLY DELINEATING THE PERPETRATOR FROM THE VICTIM. BUT TERROR AS WE SEE IT TODAY IN THE AFTERMATH OF SEPTEMBER 11 HAS TAKEN ON A NEW FORM, WHERE COMBATING TERROR WITH TERROR HAS BECOME THE ACCEPTED MODUS OPERANDI. BUT WE MUST ASK THE QUESTION: WHAT MAKES FOR A TERRORIST AND WHY IS IT THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE DRIVEN TO SUCH DEPTHS OF DESPERATION THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO RISK THEIR OWN LIVES?. PERHAPS THIS DESPAIR AND HOPELESSNESS HAS TO DO WITH THE LACK OF JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS IN THE WORLD, WITH UNEQUAL RELATIONSHIPS, WITH (IN SMART PARTNERSHIP PARLANCE) AN UNBALANCED GLOBE CREATING DIVIDES IN ALL FORMS.

15. DIALOGUE IS THUS PROBABLY THE MOST USEFUL COMMUNICATION CHANNEL TO ALLOW FOR THE CLARIFICATION OF DIFFERENCES AND CLOSING THE DIVIDES. DIALOGUE HELPS TO CREATE GREATER UNDERSTANDING, AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT LEADS TO CONSENSUS-BUILDING. THE SMART PARTNERSHIP MOVEMENT IS PREMISED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL VALUES, OF EMPATHY, AND OF WORKING TOWARDS THE END RESULT OF COLLECTIVE WELLBEING.

16. GENUINE DIALOGUE IN ANY FORM IS EVEN MORE ESSENTIAL TODAY THAN IT WAS BEFORE. IN OUR GLOBALISED SOCIETY WHERE THE DIVIDES BETWEEN

PLENTY AND SCARCITY, BETWEEN OPULENCE AND POVERTY, AND BETWEEN UNDERSTANDING AND IGNORANCE ARE SO STARK AS TO THREATEN TO WREAK HAVOC, OUR EFFORTS AT PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT MAY NEVER AMOUNT TO MUCH WITHOUT HONEST DISCOURSE. VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA AND NUMEROUS REPORTS HAVE EXPOSED THE MOST INEQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH BETWEEN NATIONS TODAY. INDEED, THE BOLD PROCLAMATIONS OF DECADES GONE BY TO SEE A FAIRER AND KINDER GLOBE HAVE SEEN THE CONTRARY RESULT OF GREATER DISAPPOINTMENT AND DESPAIR RATHER THAN SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

17. POVERTY, AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, IS AN AFFLICTION OF MANKIND THAT MUST BE REDUCED AND ULTIMATELY ERADICATED. IT IS A MORAL BLEMISH WHEN MORE THAN A BILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER; WHEN MORE THAN A BILLION EKE OUT A MEAGRE EXISTENCE; AND WHEN DISEASE AND WIDESPREAD MALNUTRITION AFFECT HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE THIRD WORLD CONDITIONS OF DEPRIVATION DO NOT EXIST IN THE DEVELOPED WORLD. OF COURSE POVERTY EXISTS IN THE DEVELOPED WORLD TOO, BUT CERTAINLY NOT IN THE FORM AND TO THE EXTENT AS THAT FOUND IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

18. ALL WORLD LEADERS MUST THEREFORE AGREE ON THE NEED TO ADDRESS VARIOUS FORMS OF INEQUALITY, ESPECIALLY POVERTY. WE MUST BE STEADFAST IN GOVERNING WITH INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY. WEAKNESSES IN ADMINISTRATION, SUCH AS WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF POWER, WILL LEAD TO POOR GOVERNANCE AND POOR RESULTS. NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS WILL NOT MATERIALISE, AND INSTEAD COUNTRIES WILL BE SADDLED WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES.

19. AMONG OTHERS, GOVERNANCE SHOULD FOCUS ON BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH SUPERIOR EDUCATION AND RELEVANT SKILLS TRAINING. I MUST STRESS THAT OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING MUST BE QUALITY OPPORTUNITIES, RATHER THAN RUN-OF-THE-MILL OPPORTUNITIES. AFTER ALL, CHILDREN ALL OVER THE WORLD GO THROUGH SOME MEASURE OF EDUCATION, BUT THE GAP BETWEEN THE HAVES AND HAVES-NOT CONTINUES TO WIDEN. NOTHING IS MORE POWERFUL IN RAISING THE STANDARD OF LIVING AND IN ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE THAN SOUND KNOWLEDGE AND VALUABLE SKILLS. CERTAINLY, PEOPLE WITH POVERTY OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO DERIVE BENEFIT FROM THEIR ECONOMIES, EVEN IF THEIR COUNTRIES ARE BLESSED WITH ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES.

20. BEYOND EDUCATION AND TRAINING, WE MUST ATTEMPT TO GROUND OUR SOCIETIES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE NOT JUST PERPETUAL CONSUMERS OF TECHNOLOGY, BUT ALSO CREATORS OF TECHNOLOGY FOR PROGRESS AND ADVANCEMENT. WE HAVE LITTLE CHOICE IN THE MATTER, IN THE CURRENT GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

21. IN RECENT YEARS, AND ESPECIALLY TODAY, IT HAS ALSO BECOME CLEAR THAT THE SCOURGE OF CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE HAS TAKEN ON NEW PROPORTIONS AND THAT EVERY COUNTRY HAS BECOME A VICTIM – DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. THE ADVENT OF MODERN TERRORISM IS A NEW AND PREVALENT THREAT AFFECTING US ALL. NO ONE COUNTRY IS EXEMPT FROM THIS THREAT.

22. MALAYSIA HAS ADVOCATED, AND THERE IS NOW A GROWING CONSENSUS AROUND IT, THAT TERRORISM CANNOT BE DEFEATED THROUGH THE CONVENTIONAL MILITARY APPROACH. IT CANNOT BE DEFEATED PURELY BY THE USE OF FORCE, AND IT CANNOT BE CONFINED TO A PARTICULAR GEOGRAPHICAL AREA. IT DOES NOT SPRING FROM A SINGLE IDEOLOGY, NOR IS IT PROPELLED BY ANY PARTICULAR RELIGION. IT IS NOT THE MONOPOLY OF A PARTICULAR NATION NOR OF A PARTICULAR ETHNIC IDENTITY. TERRORISM TODAY IS A FULLY INTERNATIONAL AFFLICTION.

23. SO INSTEAD OF LOOKING AT THE SYMPTOMS, AND REACTING IN TACTICAL MILITARY TERMS, TERRORISM AS WE KNOW IT TODAY MUST BE ADDRESSED AT THE ROOT CAUSES. SOCIETIES MIRED IN POVERTY AND HOPELESSNESS PROVIDE THE FERTILE BREEDING GROUND FOR SUCH ACTS OF EXTREME VIOLENCE. IT IS THEREFORE CLEAR THAT WE CANNOT LIVE IN AN ISLAND OF PROSPERITY AND EXTRAVAGANCE, WITHIN AN OCEAN OF DESPAIR, DISPOSSESSION AND DEPRIVATION.

24. MALAYSIA HAS HAD ITS SHARE OF EXPERIENCE IN COMBATING TERRORISM WHEN WE FACED THE COMMUNIST INSURGENCY AFTER WORLD WAR TWO. OUR STRATEGY WAS TO BE INCLUSIVE RATHER THAN EXCLUSIVE. IT WAS A PROCESS OF CONVERTING THOSE WHO FELT ALIENATED AND DISPLACED. IT WAS SHARING THE CAKE AND ENSURING THAT, LEGITIMATELY, EACH PERSON HAD A FAIR SLICE. WE PROVIDED HOPE AND DEMONSTRATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO ENSURE THAT THE FUTURE BELONGED TO ALL. THE KEY LAY IN INCLUDING EVERYONE IN BUILDING A COLLECTIVE FUTURE TOGETHER. HEARTS AND MINDS HAD TO BE WON AND THEREFORE OUR 'ARSENAL' WAS TO PROVIDE RICE AND NOT GUNS.

25. ANOTHER MALAYSIAN CHARACTERISTIC IS OUR RECOGNITION THAT WE ARE A DIVERSE NATION. WE GIVE VALUE TO DIVERSITY AND COMPLEMENT OUR DIFFERENCES. WE HAVE FOUND THE MORAL COURAGE TO COMPENSATE THE GENUINE WEAKNESSES AND ADDRESS THE ECONOMIC DIVIDE ALONG THE ETHNIC FAULT-LINES. IN ALL HUMILITY AND WITH THANKS TO GOD, I MUST SAY THAT WE HAVE MANAGED TO BUILD A MALAYSIAN SOCIETY, WITH ITS RICH DIVERSITY, INTO A SINGLE MALAYSIAN NATION. PERHAPS MALAYSIA'S EXPERIENCE CAN ALSO BE A GUIDE TO A WORLD THAT IS FACING TROUBLE IN DEALING WITH DIFFERENCE AND DIVERSITY. AFTER ALL, WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF ALL HUMANITY, AND WE CAN ONLY DO THIS BY UNDERSTANDING OTHERS BETTER.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

26. WE CAN CONTINUE ENDLESSLY DEBATING PEACE, SECURITY AND PROSPERITY. BUT WHAT IS THE USE IF WE DO NOT ACHIEVE THE END OBJECTIVE OF A SAFER AND MORE EQUITABLE GLOBAL SOCIETY?. WE MUST MOVE THE DIALOGUE PROCESS FORWARD. WE MUST TOGETHER COMBINE OUR RESOURCES TO TACKLE THE GROWING DIVIDE OF POVERTY AND DEPRIVATION, AS WELL AS TRY TO ADDRESS OTHER INJUSTICES. AFTER ALL, IT IS SUCH POVERTY AND HOPELESSNESS THAT PROVIDE FODDER TO TERRORISM. COLLECTIVELY, GOVERNMENT LEADERS TOGETHER WITH CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY LEADERS MUST MOVE IN TANDEM TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD TO GIVE HOPE TO PEOPLE.

27. IN MY DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER LEADERS, I HAVE ARTICULATED MALAYSIA'S VIEWPOINT THAT THE WAR ON TERRORISM SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ESCALATE INTO A CLASH OF FAITHS AND RELIGIONS. IT IS INDEED A TRAGEDY THAT AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, A HORRENDOUS EVENT BY ALL COUNTS, THE PROFILING OF MUSLIMS IS GAINING GROUND. "ISLAMOPHOBIA", LIKE AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE, IS RAPIDLY INFLUENCING OFFICIAL POLICY AND IN TURN EVOKING REACTIVE EXTREMISM. THIS DOES NO GOOD FOR ANYONE. IN MALAYSIA AT ONE TIME, THE ECONOMIC DIVIDE WAS EXACERBATED BY THE ETHNIC FAULT-LINES. THE WORLD CANNOT AFFORD A GLOBAL ECONOMIC DIVIDE ALONG RELIGIOUS-CULTURAL FAULT-LINES.

28. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH RICH NATIONS AND WESTERN GOVERNMENTS TO WORK ON A PLAN TO UPLIFT THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF IMPOVERISHED SOCIETIES, INCLUDING MUSLIM SOCIETIES. ALL PARTIES MUST COLLABORATE AND COOPERATE TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED RESULTS. WEALTHIER COUNTRIES SHOULD ASSIST WITHOUT CONDITIONALITIES, WHILE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES SHOULD ENSURE PROPER GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY IN THEIR EFFORTS. REFORM CANNOT BE IMPOSED AND IT CANNOT BE ONE SIDED. THERE MUST BE AN ALL-ROUND GALVANISATION OF WILL AND RESOURCES FOR ANY MEASURE TO WORK. WE MUST BUILD TRUST THROUGH DIALOGUE AND NURTURE THE VALUES OF CO-PROSPERITY AND WIN-WIN OUTCOMES, AND DO AWAY WITH ZERO SUM GAMES IN THE PROCESS.

29. MY FELLOW SMART PARTNERS, WE MUST BE HONEST AND SINCERE IN PARTNERING OTHERS TO CREATE A MORE EQUITABLE GLOBAL SOCIETY, WHERE EVERY NATION WILL HAVE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL "COMITY OF NATIONS". WE MUST FULLY DEDICATE OURSELVES TO THIS TASK, AS WE TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE OF DELIVERING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ERADICATING THE HUMAN DIVIDE IN ALL ITS FORMS.

THANK YOU.