

UCAPAN
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
DI PELANCARAN YAYASAN KEPIMPINAN PERDANA DI BANGUNAN YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN PERDANA, PUTRAJAYA
10 MEI 2005

ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH DAN SALAM SEJAHTERA;

YABHG. TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD;

YABHG. TUN DR. SITI HASMAH MOHD ALI;

YB MENTERI-MENTERI;

AHLI-AHLI YANG BERHORMAT;

EXCELLENCIES, AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS;

YBHG. TAN SRI AZMAN HASHIM SERTA
AHLI-AHLI PEMEGANG AMANAH YAYASAN KEPIMPINAN PERDANA;

DIF-DIF KEHORMAT;

TUAN-TUAN, PUAN-PUAN, PARA HADIRIN YANG SAYA HORMATI SEKALIAN;

1. ALHAMDULILLAH, SAYA BERSYUKUR KE HADRAT ALLAH S.W.T. KERANA DENGAN LIMPAH, KURNIA DAN IZINNYA KITA DAPAT SAMA-SAMA HADIR DI MAJLIS YANG PENUH BERSEJARAH INI. SAYA INGIN MENGUCAPKAN SETINGGI-TINGGI PENGHARGAAN KEPADA YAYASAN KEPIMPINAN PERDANA KERANA SUDI MENJEMPUT SAYA KE MAJLIS PELANCARAN PADA HARI INI DAN MEMBERI PENGHORMATAN KEPADA SAYA UNTUK MELANCARKAN YAYASAN INI. SAYA AMAT BERBESAR HATI KERANA MAJLIS PADA PETANG INI TURUT DIHADIRI OLEH TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD BESERTA TUN DR. SITI HASMAH MOHD ALI. SAYA JUGA TERHARU KERANA DAPAT BERTEMU DENGAN AHLI-AHLI KELUARGA PEMIMPIN-PEMIMPIN YANG TERDAHULU, SERTA NEGARAWAN-NEGARAWAN MALAYSIA YANG LAIN YANG TELAH BANYAK MENABUR JASA DAN BAKTI KEPADA BANGSA DAN TANAHAIR.

2. SESUNGGUHNYA, PELANCARAN PADA HARI INI AMAT BERMAKNA, BUKAN HANYA BAGI MEREKA YANG TERLIBAT SECARA LANGSUNG DENGAN YAYASAN KEPIMPINAN PERDANA, MALAH BAGI SETIAP WARGANEGARA MALAYSIA TERMASUK GENERASI AKAN DATANG. SAYA DIFAHAMKAN YAYASAN KEPIMPINAN PERDANA AKAN BERFUNGSI SEBAGAI SATU PUSAT PENGETAHUAN ATAU "KNOWLEDGE REPOSITORY" BERKENAAN BIDANG KEPIMPINAN, TERUTAMANYA MENGENAI KEPIMPINAN PERDANA MENTERI-PERDANA MENTERI MALAYSIA. DENGAN WUJUDNYA YAYASAN INI, SATU CABANG PENTING DALAM SEJARAH PEMBANGUNAN NEGARA, IAITU KAJIAN MENGENAI DASAR-DASAR DAN SUMBANGAN PERDANA MENTERI-PERDANA MENTERI MALAYSIA, AKAN DIBERI PERHATIAN YANG SEWAJARNYA.

3. SAYA BEGITU GEMBIRA TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SENDIRI YANG TELAH MENCADANGKAN PENUBUHAN YAYASAN INI DAN SETERUSNYA MENJADI NADI PENGGERAK UTAMA DALAM MENJAYAKAN USAHA INI. SAYA DAN SETIAP RAKYAT MALAYSIA AMAT TERHUTANG BUDI KEPADA TUN DR. MAHATHIR, BUKAN SAHAJA UNTUK VISI DAN DEDIKASI BELIAU DALAM MEMIMPIN NEGARA SELAMA 22 TAHUN, TETAPI JUGA UNTUK KEPRIHATINAN BELIAU DALAM MENYEDIAKAN BARISAN KEPIMPINAN MALAYSIA YANG AKAN DATANG; IAITU BARISAN PEMIMPIN YANG MEMAHAMI SECARA MENDALAM DASAR-DASAR PEMBANGUNAN DAHULU DAN MENGGUNAKANNYA UNTUK MENJAMIN MASA DEPAN YANG LEBIH CEMERLANG, GEMILANG DAN TERBILANG.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

4. IT IS A GREAT HONOUR FOR ME TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY TO LAUNCH THE PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION. THE BRAINCHILD OF NONE OTHER THAN TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HIMSELF, I BELIEVE THIS FOUNDATION WILL HELP TO BRIDGE A GAP IN THE STUDY OF MALAYSIA'S DEVELOPMENT HISTORY – THAT IS, THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MALAYSIA'S LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY THE COUNTRY'S PRIME MINISTERS – IN GUIDING AND SHAPING MALAYSIA'S DEVELOPMENT SINCE INDEPENDENCE.

5. TODAY, MALAYSIANS CAN PROUDLY SPEAK OF A COUNTRY THAT IS POLITICALLY STABLE, WHERE THE INSTITUTIONS OF DEMOCRACY ARE UPHELD, AND WHERE ITS DIVERSE POPULATION LIVES TOGETHER IN PEACE AND HARMONY. WE CAN ALSO BE PROUD OF OUR ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS, HAVING SUCCESSFULLY MADE THE TRANSITION FROM A PREDOMINANTLY AGRICULTURE-BASED ECONOMY TO ONE THAT IS POISED TO ENTER THE KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY, HAVING BUILT OUR CAPACITIES IN MANUFACTURING AND HEAVY-INDUSTRY ALONG THE WAY. IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FOREIGN POLICY, MALAYSIA'S REPUTATION AS A MODERATE AND PROGRESSIVE ISLAMIC COUNTRY IS WELL ESTABLISHED AND DEEPLY RESPECTED.

6. BY THE GRACE OF ALLAH S.W.T., MALAYSIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BEEN DRIVEN BY STRONG AND CAPABLE LEADERSHIP; SKILLFUL MANAGEMENT OF ETHNIC RELATIONS; EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP OF THE ECONOMY; EQUITABLE DIVISION OF THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH; AND STRATEGIC EXECUTION OF THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY. INDEED, THE NATURE AND QUALITY OF MALAYSIA'S LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY THAT OF ITS PRIME MINISTERS, HAS OFTEN BEEN SINGLED-OUT AS THE DEFINING FACTOR BEHIND ITS SUCCESS. MALAYSIA'S ABILITY TO OVERTAKE MANY COUNTRIES THAT HAD STARTED OUT WITH MORE GEOGRAPHICAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE ADVANTAGES, BEARS TESTIMONY TO THIS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

7. I BELIEVE A PRIME MINISTER'S ROLE AS LEADER OF A NATION IS TO SET FORTH A VISION OF THE DIRECTION THAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS TO GO, A STRATEGY OF HOW TO GET THERE, AND A PLAN OF ACTION TO PURSUE THE OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS SET. THIS IS WHAT MALAYSIA'S PAST PRIME MINISTERS HAVE DONE.

8. WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT THE RESPECTIVE VISIONS AND POLICIES OF MALAYSIA'S SUCCESSIVE PRIME MINISTERS HAD MET THE NEEDS OF THEIR TIME AND SHAPED THE OVERRIDING PRIORITIES OF THE COUNTRY. TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PUTRA AL-HAJ, MALAYSIA'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER, WILL FOREVER BE LOVED AND REMEMBERED AS OUR "BAPA KEMERDEKAAN", AS HE BROUGHT THE COUNTRY INDEPENDENCE IN 1957 AND WITH THAT, THE FREEDOM TO CHART OUR OWN DESTINY. TUN ABDUL RAZAK DATO' HUSSEIN, MALAYSIA'S SECOND PRIME MINISTER, WILL BE REMEMBERED AS OUR "BAPA PEMBANGUNAN" AS HE ADDRESSED THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INEQUITIES THAT DIVIDED THE NATION BY PUSHING TO ERADICATE POVERTY AND BY TAKING STEPS TO RESTRUCTURE SOCIETY. MALAYSIA'S THIRD PRIME MINISTER, TUN HUSSEIN DATO' ONN, IS REMEMBERED AS OUR "BAPA PERPADUAN" FOR PRIORITISING NATIONAL UNITY. MALAYSIA'S FOURTH PRIME MINISTER, TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, IS OF COURSE WELL-KNOWN TO US AS "BAPA PEMODENAN", AS HE SPEARHEADED MALAYSIA'S INDUSTRIALISATION AND INCREASED THE COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL PROFILE.

9. MALAYSIA'S PAST PRIME MINISTERS HAVE ALSO DEMONSTRATED THROUGH THEIR VISIONS, STRATEGIES AND IMPLEMENTATION HOW EXTRAORDINARY CHALLENGES – CHALLENGES THAT ARE UNIQUE TO MALAYSIA AND OFTEN WITHOUT PRECEDENT – COULD BE OVERCOME AND ADDRESSED. TUNKU MAY HAVE WALKED THE PATH OF INDIA IN SEEKING PEACEFUL DISENGAGEMENT FROM OUR COLONIAL MASTERS, BUT MALAYSIA WAS UNIQUE IN FORMING A MULTI-RACIAL GOVERNMENT. TUN ABDUL RAZAK CREATED THE NATIONAL OPERATIONS ROOM TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WHILE HIS RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN WON MANY ACCOLADES AND HAS BEEN DUPLICATED IN OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. TUN HUSSEIN ONN'S NATIONAL UNIT TRUST OR AMANAH SAHAM SCHEME IS STILL BEING CARRIED ON TODAY, SUCCESSFULLY ENCOURAGING SAVINGS AMONG MALAYSIANS OF ALL INCOME LEVELS AND RACES. AND TUN DR. MAHATHIR GAVE THE NATION ITS FIRST NATIONAL CAR, A WORLD-CLASS AIRPORT AND THE WORLD'S TALLEST TWIN TOWERS, AMONG OTHERS, AND HAS SET A COURSE FOR US TO BECOME A FULLY DEVELOPED NATION BY THE YEAR 2020.

10. THE STORIES OF WHAT THEY HAVE FACED AND OVERCOME, AS WELL THEIR VISIONS FOR MALAYSIA'S FUTURE, ARE VALUABLE LESSONS FOR US, THE PRESENT AND FUTURE STEWARDS OF MALAYSIA, AS WE GO FORTH TO CHART OUR DESTINY.

11. ON MY OWN PATH TOWARDS BECOMING PRIME MINISTER, I HAVE LEARNED MANY THINGS ALONG THE WAY. ONE THING THAT I HAVE LEARNED OVER THE YEARS IS THAT LEADERS ARE NOT NECESSARILY BORN, BUT ARE MADE. SELF-STUDY, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE ARE IMPORTANT FACTORS. I

HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY BLESSED TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE DIRECTLY UNDER ALL FOUR OF MALAYSIA'S PRIME MINISTERS. FROM EACH OF THEM, I HAVE HUMBLY LEARNED THE QUALITIES OF GOOD LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY THE VALUES OF AMANAH, ACCOUNTABILITY, JUSTICE, INTEGRITY, PATIENCE AND COURAGE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY. THE WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE THAT I GAINED UNDER THEIR EXPERT GUIDANCE AND MENTORSHIP HAS BEEN A POWERFUL SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND A RESOURCE TO HELP ME THROUGH MY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS PRIME MINISTER.

12. I REALISE THAT NOT ALL MALAYSIANS WOULD HAVE HAD THE UNIQUE HONOUR AND OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AND LEARN FROM THEM, AS I HAVE. AS SUCH, I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT THIS FOUNDATION, WHICH IS DEDICATED TO THE STUDY OF MALAYSIAN LEADERS AND PRIME MINISTERS AS WELL AS ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, HAS BEEN SET UP. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE WORK OF THIS FOUNDATION WILL ENSURE THAT THE COUNTRY'S INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE IS NOT ONLY PRESERVED, BUT ALSO RESEARCHED, DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED TO THE MALAYSIAN PUBLIC TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER THOUGHT AND DEBATE.

13. I BELIEVE THE FOUNDATION HAS MADE A SOLID START TOWARDS THIS END BY WORKING TOGETHER WITH EXISTING INSTITUTIONS TO COLLECT, DIGITISE AND ARCHIVE MATERIALS IMPORTANT TO OUR NATION, AND TO HAVE THESE RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MALAYSIAN PUBLIC VIA THE INTERNET. HOWEVER, THERE IS PERHAPS STILL MORE TO DO BEFORE THE FOUNDATION CAN REALISE ITS GOAL OF BECOMING THE PREMIER RESEARCH AND LEARNING INSTITUTION ON MALAYSIAN LEADERSHIP. THEREFORE, I ENCOURAGE MORE MALAYSIANS TO COME FORWARD TO PLEDGE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE FOUNDATION. I ALSO ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO FORM RESOURCE-SHARING COLLABORATIONS WITH THIS FOUNDATION.

14. ON MY PART, I REITERATE THE GOVERNMENT'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE FOUNDATION'S VISION, OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMMES AND EXTEND THE GOVERNMENT'S FULL SUPPORT TO THE FOUNDATION'S PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. I BELIEVE THAT THE FOUNDATION'S CAUSE IS A WORTHY ONE, AND THAT IT SEEKS TO SERVE AS AN IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN THE COUNTRY'S PAST AND THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE. IT IS A REMINDER TO ALL MALAYSIANS, AND TO ME ESPECIALLY AS PRIME MINISTER, THAT THE CHOICES WE MAKE AS LEADERS AND THE PRIORITIES WE SET DETERMINE THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE PATH AND AFFECT THE LIVES OF MILLIONS. THEREFORE, LET US NOT FORGET, BUT INSTEAD LEARN THE LESSONS FROM OUR PAST LEADERS, SO THAT WE MAY GO FORWARD AND EMBRACE A BETTER, MORE ASSURED FUTURE.

SAUDARA DAN SAUDARI SEKALIAN,

15. PERASMIAN YAYASAN KEPIMPINAN PERDANA INI BOLEH DITERJEMAHKAN SEBAGAI SATU LANGKAH POSITIF BAGI RAKYAT MALAYSIA, TERMASUK SEKTOR SWASTA, UNTUK MEMBERI SUMBANGAN DARI SEGI MAKLUMAT, PEMBELAJARAN DAN PENYELIDIKAN KEPADA RAKYAT DAN KEPADA NEGARA. SAYA MENGUCAPKAN

SYABAS KEPADA PIHAK YAYASAN DI ATAS SEGALA USAHANYA DAN BERHARAP YAYASAN AKAN TERUS GIGIH DALAM MENYEMPURNAKAN VISI DAN MISINYA.

16. MAKA DENGAN ITU, DENGAN LAFAZ BISMILLAHIR RAHMANIR RAHIM, SAYA DENGAN SUKACITANYA MERASMIKAN YAYASAN KEPIMPINAN PERDANA.

SEKIAN, TERIMA KASIH.

NOTA: UCAPAN INI TIDAK MERANGKUMI KENYATAAN DI LUAR TEKS ATAU "OFF THE CUFF REMARKS" YAB PERDANA MENTERI