

**THE OPENING CEREMONY OF KRIS SAFETY FOOTWEAR SDN BHD**  
PANDAMARAN, KELANG, SELANGOR, 12 NOVEMBER 1992

It gives me great pleasure for being invited to jointly officiate the opening ceremony of Kris Safety Footwear Sdn. Bhd. together with His Excellency, The President of Chile.

2. I am delighted that the joint-venture agreement for this safety shoe factory which was signed in Santiago last year between the Malaysian and Chilean partners of this company has materialised. The speedy implementation of this project is indeed commendable.

3. Today, we see the fruition of our Government's call to strengthen South-South ties and this is the first Chilean investment not only in Malaysia but also in the ASEAN region.

4. Although this is not a particularly large project in terms of quantum of investment, it is nevertheless a significant and meaningful one. Sometimes it is better to start in a small way and Kris Safety Footwear is a good example that international business cooperation is not always limited to large multinationals.

5. I understand that Kris Safety Footwear will produce leather safety shoes of the highest quality and am pleased to note that the whole of next year's production has been booked and committed for export, initially to Europe and North America while the future markets will be in the Asia-Pacific region. This is a move in the right direction, and as developing nations become more industrialised the requirements for safety shoes in factories will be greater.

6. To the Chilean business community strongly represented here today, I would once again, like to invite you to participate positively in establishing business ventures on a joint-venture basis in line with our national development policy.

7. To our Malaysian businessmen, I would encourage you not to miss this golden opportunity to interact with our friends from Chile and lay the firm foundation for Malaysia's progress towards a developed nation status by 2020.

8. I would like in conclusion to wish this first Malaysian-Chilean joint-venture all the best in the future.