

## **THE INAUGURATION OF THE SAN BERNARDO JOINT VENTURE PROJECT SANTIAGO, CHILE, 29 SEPTEMBER 1997**

It is an honour for me to be here today together with President Frei to jointly inaugurate and officiate this San Bernardo new township project. This project developed together by both the consortium of Malaysian companies (MASSCORP) and the Chilean counterparts marks a new milestone in Malaysia-Chile relations, through the culmination of months of planning and hard work undertaken by all its partners. Today as I stand here, I am again reminded that we the countries of the South have so much to offer each other. Projects of this nature prove yet again that South-south Cooperation is working effectively for the betterment of its people.

2. I am proud that the Chilean authorities and the business community have shown their confidence in working with the Malaysian companies to develop this old railway workshop which had been abandoned for such a long time into a new township. It demonstrates that the corporate sector of the south are more than capable of undertaking large construction projects that will ultimately benefit all sectors of the community. I am glad that in its efforts to develop this township care has been taken to safeguard the environment and efforts have been made to incorporate recreational facilities for the young as well as the old. I do hope that with the completion of the railway line from Santiago to San Bernardo, more city folk will be encouraged to spend their weekends in San Bernardo and to take advantages of all the facilities that this township will provide. I wish the municipality much success for its development plans for the town and hope that this particular project has in some way contributed to making a part of their vision a reality. I congratulate MASSCORP Malaysia and its Chilean counterpart for their efforts in bringing this project to fruition.

3. I sincerely hope that this is the beginning of many more such projects between Malaysia and Chile. Once again my congratulations to all who have participated in this project. I wish you success and am confident that the project, when completed will stand as an example of South- South Cooperation in action.