

**THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE KEY TO THE CITY TO
THE PRIME MINISTER**

CITY HALL, MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, 02 OCTOBER 1997

1. Thank you for honouring me today with the key to this beautiful and historic city. I will cherish this honour and it will be to me a symbol of the friendship and cordiality of the Uruguayan people and especially the people of this city.
2. Capital cities have a unique role to play in national development. They can act as catalysts and a testing ground for national change. They can act as magnets for new ideas and they often generate enthusiasm and hope that touches the whole nation. In the short time that I have been here I have sensed that this is a city eager to push ahead, eager to take on the challenges of new technologies, eager to exploit its central location in the MERCOSUR and eager to attract foreign investment.
3. As you are aware, I have come to Uruguay with a large delegation of Malaysian business leaders. I feel confident that they will leave Uruguay with a keener sense of the attractiveness and business potential of this city. They would also have established important new contacts with the business leaders of this city. It is my sincere hope that this will soon lead to new business ventures, enhanced trade and economic co-operation.
4. As politicians we all have an obligation to encourage such co-operation because it can make a real difference in the lives of the people we serve. I want to assure you therefore that I will personally encourage and support private sector co-operation and involvement with Uruguay and particularly with the city of Montevideo.
5. Apart from trade and investment, there are also other avenues for co-operation. We can share experience. We can learn from each other. In this context Mr. Mayor, I wish to inform you that Malaysia would be happy to cooperate with the city administration and provide training in a number of fields of relevance under the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme. I would also like to extend an invitation to you and your colleagues to visit Malaysia and our capital city to see how we can further develop a mutually beneficial programme.
6. Thank you once again for honouring me with the key to the city of Montevideo.